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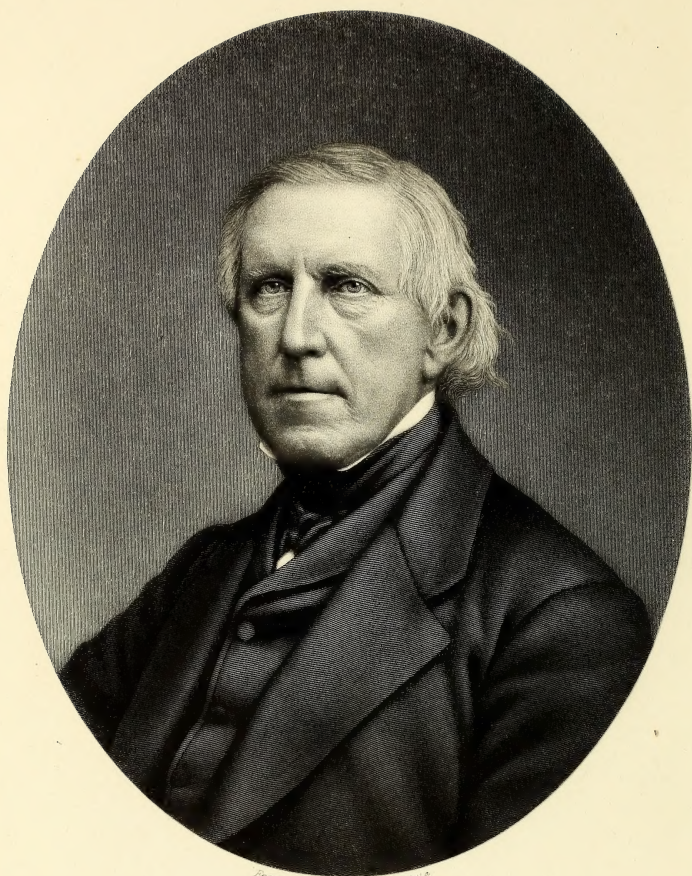


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*Daniel Remick*



HISTORY  
OF  
KENNEBUNK  
FROM ITS  
EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO 1890.

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INCLUDING  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
BY  
DANIEL REMICH.

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## PREFACE.

The original plan of Mr. Remich in writing this History of Kennebunk was to take up the noteworthy events of our town after its separation from Wells in 1820, and so continue the History of Wells and Kennebunk by Edward E. Bourne; but after due consideration of the subject it seemed essential to him to go back to its early settlement in order that the reader might be able to trace the growth of the town, in sequence, since the days when the first white man landed upon our shores, thus necessarily covering much of the ground already gone over by Judge Bourne. He spared neither time nor money in gaining access to old records, deeds, files of papers, etc., to obtain the desired information and his remarkable memory served him well in many instances. He was always greatly interested in historical research and he devoted the most of his time the latter part of his life to this work; it was purely a pastime with him, as he never expected to receive any reward for his labors other than the benefit which he might sometime be able to impart to others. Laboring under difficulties at times, he toiled on with his compilation, hoping to be able to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion. When he finally had a certain amount of material in hand he undertook to have it published, thinking that he could keep in advance of the publishers in putting it together properly, making any necessary alterations and filling in dates and various omissions that had occurred, but his disappointment was great to discover, after having carefully corrected the proof himself, that the company which he had engaged to do the printing had overlooked many of his directions and as a result the pages that were printed were so filled with errors that he became utterly discouraged and consequently withdrew it. Not long after his health began to fail so he did not make another attempt to have it published. It is greatly to be regretted that he was unable to accomplish his long cherished desire. Mr. Remich passed away the thirtieth of May, 1892. It was his wish that if his History of Kennebunk was found to be sufficiently completed for publication, that it be left to his executors to see that it was properly attended to; accordingly, in due time, several chapters of the manuscript were passed over to one of the executors, Mr. E. P. Burnham,

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of Saco, but he was unable to give it the necessary attention so we were obliged to abandon the idea of expecting assistance in that direction. From time to time several further attempts were made to have the subject matter prepared for publication, but for various reasons they proved unsatisfactory, resulting in repeated delays.

I had long felt that perhaps it was my duty to prepare my father's historical work for the press, so far as I had the ability, and had come to realize that I must at least make the endeavor; accordingly I turned to the original manuscript, casting all recent copies one side, rearranged and classified the chapters, cut out many repetitions, filled in dates and other omissions when they could be ascertained with certainty, made what corrections seemed necessary and supplied several chapters from addresses and various other of his writings, as was his intention to have done. It should be understood, however, that in making these corrections I have not assumed, in any case, to change the facts, but have ever kept in mind his request that nothing be added to or taken from the text. This has been an exceedingly laborious task, inasmuch as the manuscript had become thoroughly mixed, there being no expectation of having any further use for it after the copy was made, thus adding to the many difficulties that had previously arisen. I have also affixed an index in which I have essayed to make note of every item of importance as well as of persons and places mentioned in this volume. We are under obligations to Messrs. Albion and Harry T. Burbank, of Exeter, New Hampshire, for valuable assistance in correcting the proof.

Now that we are to present this History of Kennebunk for distribution, we desire to tender our sincere thanks to the citizens of the town who have borne so patiently with us for having unavoidably withheld this work from the public so long.

CARRIE E. REMICH.

December, 1910.



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# HISTORY OF KENNEBUNK.

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## CHAPTER I.

### PRELIMINARY.

[The territory now known as the town of Kennebunk, for nearly a century after the first white settler upon it had located himself and family, received but few accessions to its population, and, notwithstanding the many facilities it offered to the farmer and mill-man, was almost entirely neglected by persons seeking grants of land. It is attempted in this chapter, which is chiefly a compilation, to answer the natural query—"Why was it thus disregarded?" Such of the events in the early history of the Province of Maine, during this period, as influenced the condition of our township, directly or indirectly, are narrated as briefly as practicable, omitting all details that do not appear to be required for the attainment of the desired object. It will be found that, while the frequent changes of government and policy in the mother country, and the varying fortunes of Gorges, which were mainly attributable to these changes, injuriously affected the prosperity of all the towns, the carelessness or dishonesty of the Plymouth Council in issuing the Dye Patent—which was clearly an infringement on the grant to Gorges—and the conflicting claims that grew out of this procedure, bore directly upon the strip of territory under consideration, and very naturally produced feelings of uncertainty as to the validity of any title to its acres that could be acquired.<sup>1</sup> It will be understood, therefore, that it has not been the aim of the compiler to prepare a historical sketch of the country (which at this day, for obvious reasons, would be entirely superfluous), but simply to furnish the readers of the succeeding chapters with a collection of facts elucidative of the text, which, it is believed, will be found of value as a handy reference.]

<sup>1</sup> Besides the complications and doubt-inspiring movements here referred to, were the boundary troubles between Wells and Kennebunkport, and the claim of John Wadleigh, founded on a conveyance by an Indian sagamore, both of which will be noticed in chronological order as our history proceeds.

The history of Maine commences with the opening of the sixteenth century. The Cabots, it is true, in 1497, discovered the coast of Labrador, or Newfoundland, thence sailed as far south as Maine, and possibly Massachusetts, and upon these discoveries England founded her claim to this part of North America; again, in 1524, John Verazzano, in the service of France, proceeded along the coast from the thirty-fourth to near the fiftieth degree of north latitude, "keeping the coast of Maine in sight for fifty leagues," and on the discoveries made during this voyage France grounded its claim to North American territory; a little later, Gomez, a Spanish adventurer, passed in view of the coast from Newfoundland to the capes of the Delaware, and it is not improbable that other European navigators traversed the same route before the close of the fifteenth century, but it was not until the period above named, "when the thirst for discovery was fully enkindled, and colonization efforts were more seriously entertained" by the commercial nations of Europe, that we find evidence that the coast of Maine was especially observed, or its territories sought with the object of colonization.

In 1602 Bartholomew Gosnold left an English port in a small vessel with thirty-two men, and made the coast of Maine and New Hampshire in forty-nine days. There are reasons for the supposition that the "Northland," mentioned in his narrative of the voyage, was Cape Porpoise, and "Savage Rock," the Nubble, near Cape Neddock.<sup>1</sup> It does not appear that he landed in this vicinity. The favorable description of the country made by Gosnold, after his return, led to further expeditions for its exploration, among which was that of Martin Pring, in 1603, who "went a short distance up Kennebunk river," finding no people, but signs of fires where they had been.<sup>2</sup>

In 1604 Sieur de Monts, while in pursuit of a favorable location for the founding of a French colony, under a patent granted to him by Henry the Fourth of France (1603), which embraced the entire territory from the fortieth to the forty-sixth degree of north latitude, and included "the whole of our present New England," . . . "undertook a voyage of discovery" in a pinnacle of fifteen tons, which he had built at the Island of St. Croix (in Passamaquoddy Bay), "the firstling, probably, of our American marine." He was

<sup>1</sup> Bradbury's "History of Kennebunkport," printed by James K. Remich, 1837.

<sup>2</sup> Pring's visit was made in the summer, and the natives were undoubtedly up the rivers Kennebunk and Mousam at the time, looking after their traps, etc.

accompanied by Samuel Champlain, "the chronicler of the voyage, the master of the pinnace, and a crew of about twenty sailors and soldiers."<sup>1</sup> The voyage was prosperous, and in Maine they found the natives friendly. They landed at Richman's Island, near Casco Bay, at Chouahouet, now Saco, and at Cape Porpoise, named by Champlain *Le Port aux Isles* (the Port of the Isles),<sup>2</sup> "and here they were charmed by the glad song of infinite numbers of black-birds and bobolinks, and thence to the Kennebunk River, where they were astonished with immense flocks of turtle-doves, or wild pigeons." They left Cape Porpoise the fifteenth day of July, 1605, and proceeded "twelve leagues toward the south, along the beaches of Maine and New Hampshire." George Weymouth, the English navigator, it is said, preceded de Monts only a few days, or a few weeks at farthest, in this examination of our coast.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The quotations in this paragraph are from the first chapter of the "Isles of Shoals," by John Scribner Jenness, 1873, and the remainder of the paragraph is a condensation of the narrative therein given.

<sup>2</sup>Cape Porpoise is formed by a cluster of fifteen islands, viz.: Folly, Goat, Green, Trott's, Vaughan's (formerly Long), Stage, Fort, Cape or East, Redding's, Eagle (known also as Bass and Cherry), Milk, Neck or Bickford's, Savan, Bush and Cedar. West of these, and without the cluster, is Bunkin Island. Bradbury says Stage Island was probably the first land granted in the present town of Kennebunkport, and that the earliest settlers—"perhaps as early as 1620"—seated themselves there. The first burying-place in the town was on this island. It contains about fifteen acres, and "there are marks of cultivation on every part of it." Stage included, perhaps a century ago, what is now called Fort Island, but the soil has been washed away by the action of the sea, so that now at low water there are two islands, of which Stage is much the larger.

<sup>3</sup>The author of the "Isles of Shoals" is of the opinion, based on the evidence furnished in Folsom's "Early Documents Relating to Maine," that Gorges and Mason visited the coasts of Maine and New Hampshire in or about 1619, and that "there is reason to believe" that they landed on the Isles of Shoals during this voyage, and also that Gorges had then "been for several years a merchant-adventurer to our coasts," but well-settled facts show conclusively that this impression is erroneous. In 1619, Vines, in the employ of Gorges, had made several trips to the waters of the Saco, and had established a colony there which was flourishing and receiving accessions yearly. If Gorges had been in this vicinity at the time above named, it can hardly be doubted that he would have sought the whereabouts of Vines, called upon him, and made some inquiries, at least, respecting the condition and prospects of the colony planted under his own direction and with means he had provided. If the date of this conjectured voyage had been some ten or fifteen years earlier, it would be exceedingly pleasant to accept the statement under consideration, and to adopt the idea that might be based upon it,—that in his early manhood, while sailing along our shores, discerning the noble forests, the mouths of its many rivers, and the possibilities of a territory so wonderfully fitted by Nature to become the dwelling-place of a numerous and powerful people, the colonization scheme had its inception in the mind of the ambitious Gorges, followed by visions of colonies, of a government in imitation of the splendid monarchies of Europe, of which he should be the absolute ruler, and hence his years of untiring effort, of sacrifice and embarrassment, all destined to be unrewarded and fruitless;—all this, however, is simply mythical. Fate ordained that even the poor privilege should be denied him of impressing with his footstep any portion of the soil whereon he would have reared his gorgeous civil and ecclesiastical edifice.



In 1606 King James the First of England granted patents to two companies, the London and the Plymouth, with all the requisite privileges and powers for planting colonies which were to be governed for the king and by a council of his appointment. To the first-named was assigned the territory extending from the thirty-fourth to the forty-first degree of north latitude, with a breadth of fifty miles inland, and to the Plymouth, the territory lying between the thirty-eighth and forty-sixth parallels of latitude and with the same breadth inland. The two companies, soon after obtaining their charters, fitted out vessels with colonists, to explore and plant settlements in their respective territories; the former (December, 1606), three ships and one hundred and five colonists, the expedition resulting in the settlement at Jamestown, Va.; the latter (May, 1607), three ships and one hundred settlers. This expedition, however, proved unfortunate. A colony called the Sagadahock Colony was formed at the mouth of the Kennebec River (August, 1607), but the severe winter that followed, and self-imposed troubles with the natives, led to the abandonment of the enterprise and the return of the colonists after a sojourn of less than twelve months. This mishap dampened the ardor of the company, and for a time the voyages to our coast were confined "to objects of fishing and traffic with the natives." This state of inactivity, however, did not long continue. Sir Ferdinando Gorges, although his name does not appear on the list of patentees, was prominent and the most active in promoting the interests of the Plymouth Company. Among those whom he engaged in its service was Capt. John Smith, so famous in history, who had recently returned from his voyage to our coast (1614-15).<sup>1</sup> His labors, however, were not attended with any marked results. Through the agency of Gorges, Richard Vines and his company visited this coast (1616-17), entered the Saco River (which Vines had visited six years before), and camped at Winter Harbor through a winter.<sup>2</sup> Very little is known concerning these colonists. They were probably employed, during the warm season, in trading and fishing along the coast from the Penobscot to the Piscataqua.

<sup>1</sup> During this voyage Captain Smith gave the name which it still bears, New England, to the country described in the patent to the Plymouth Company, which to that time had been known as North Virginia.

<sup>2</sup> "Having explored all the points along the shores of Saco Bay, they selected a spot in lower Biddeford, on the west side of the Pool, a portion of land extending out into the water [since] known as Leighton's Point. Here Captain Vines erected a log cabin, built in it a wide fireplace and chimney from the stones gathered on the beach, thatched it with long grass gathered from the marsh, and spread for a

There is no record of any permanent settlement made by them. It is generally supposed that all of them returned to England with Vines, after a year's sojourn here. Vines reported on his return that a "great part of New England was almost depopulated by war and pestilence," so that "the country was in a manner left void of inhabitants." It was afterward ascertained that a frightful epidemic had prevailed from 1613 to 1617, and perhaps later, from the Penobscot River to Narragansett Bay. The nature of this terrible disease has never been ascertained. It is a remarkable fact that although they were living in the midst of it, not one of Vines' company was attacked by this mysterious and virulent disorder.

On the third day of November, 1620, James the First granted a new incorporation to a company of forty persons, with the title of the "Council established at Plymouth, in the county of Devon (England), for the planting, ordering, ruling and governing of New England, in America," embracing all the territory now occupied by the New England States. "It was empowered to hold territory in America, extending westward from sea to sea, and in breadth from the fortieth to the forty-eighth degree of north latitude." From this council, in 1622, Gorges and Capt. John Mason, a man who had held important public trusts, and who was both experienced and energetic, obtained a grant of the country "bounded by the Merri-mac, the Kennebec, the ocean and the River of Canada." To this territory they gave the name of Laconia.<sup>1</sup> Under this grant Gorges continued the work of the settlement of the territory with renewed

carpet the fragrant boughs of the hemlock. This was the first habitation of civilized man upon the shores of Saco Bay, and our adventurers had no English neighbors nearer than Jamestown, Virginia. . . . The Englishmen made themselves a secure shelter. Their vessel in which their supplies were kept was anchored in the Pool, and the abundance of game and fish made their circumstances, to lovers of adventure, all that could be desired. . . . This was several years before the settlement of Massachusetts by the Puritans."—*Shores of Saco Bay, Maine*, p. 105;—an interesting historical sketch and guide, by J. S. Locke, Boston, 1880.

<sup>1</sup> Was this merely a fancy name, adopted because it was smooth and pleasant, as well as easily pronounced, or was it adopted because it was thought the geographical features of the territory granted by this patent were somewhat like those of the Laconia so celebrated "in story and song"? Within its boundaries the mountains have reminders, and perhaps in our valleys and plains, rocky coasts and prominent capes, a similarity might have been observed, which, in connection with the taciturn, "stern, rude, cruel and narrow-minded" traits of character that alike distinguished the Indian tribes who were dwellers here and the old Spartan, presented points of resemblance sufficiently strong to warrant the transferring of the name of an ancient and famous province of classic Greece to a province in the new world that had no written history, no legends even, on which to base more than bare conjecture in regard to the savage race by which it was sparsely inhabited.



energy. "He was now better prepared to prosecute the undertaking than ever before. From his previous unsuccessful attempts in this direction, he had derived information which enabled him better to understand the value of the grants as well as the means necessary to be employed to render his labors successful." It is evident that he had determined to concentrate his energies on that part of the grant lying east of the Piscataqua, and between the years 1622 and 1629, permanent settlements were formed at York, Wells, Cape Porpoise and Saco. By mutual agreement, in 1629, Mason and Gorges divided their grant, Gorges taking all that portion of it lying east of the Piscataqua, and Mason that lying between the Piscataqua and Merrimac.

In 1630 Sir Ferdinando sent over Edward Godfrey and others to look after his interests on the east side of the Piscataqua. Immediately after his arrival on our shores, Godfrey proceeded to Agamenticus (now York), where he erected a dwelling-house, and was the founder of the town. This fact appears to be well established. In 1654, in a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts, Godfrey states that he has been "twenty-four years an inhabitant of Agamenticus, and was the first who ever built or settled there."<sup>1</sup>

The Council granted to John Dye and others (1630) forty miles square or sixteen hundred square miles, between Cape Porpoise and Cape Elizabeth, known as the Lygonia or Plough patent. Attempts were made at settlement under this patent, but so many obstacles were encountered that the project seems to have been abandoned by the patentees. In the same year (1630), Vines, Oldham and two others obtained from the Council a grant of "four miles in breadth on the seashore and extending eight miles into the country, on the west side of Saco River." Vines took possession of this territory in June, and several families that came over with him settled at Little River within the present limits of Kennebunkport.<sup>2</sup> Both these

<sup>1</sup> For seven years after the first voyage (1616-17) of Captain Vines, he with others was engaged in transporting colonists to this coast, and settlements were made along the shores of Saco Bay at several points. We have but few records to throw light upon the transactions of those years, but in 1623 there were several families residing on each side of the Saco River, among whom were Richard Vines on the west side and John Oldham on the east.—*Locke's Shores of Casco Bay*.

In 1631 a cargo of domestic animals, cows, hogs, goats and sheep, was brought into the Saco settlement, the first that had been imported into Maine. The precise date when horses were first brought into the colony is not known, probably fifteen to twenty-five years later.

<sup>2</sup> This grant was sold in 1645 to Dr. Robert Child, and after several transfers fell into possession of Major William Phillips.—*Bradbury's History of Kennebunkport*.

patents, that to the Lygonia Company and that to Vines and his associates, were clearly infringements of the grant to Gorges and Mason.

June 7, 1635, the Plymouth Council—incorporated in 1620—formally surrendered to the king the Great Charter of New England, having previously divided the territory into twelve parts, and then “proceeded to a distribution of New England among themselves by lot.” They accompanied the surrender of their charter with a petition to the king for separate patents according to this agreement. By this distribution Gorges, who must have been a member of the Council at this time, continued to retain possession of the country between the Piscataqua and the Kennebec, and the action of the Council in this particular was confirmed by Charles the First, whereupon it was named New Somersetshire from Gorges’ English home. The following year Sir Ferdinando sent over his nephew, William Gorges, as governor, with instructions to endeavor to revive the settlement at Agamenticus, which was far from being in a prosperous condition, and to organize a government for his colonies. It is supposed that William, on his arrival in this country, proceeded directly to Agamenticus, where he tarried a few days only; he then visited Saco. Having brought over with him commissions from Sir Ferdinando to several persons, then residing in the colonies, to act as assistants or councilors, a board of governor and councilors was at once instituted. The members of this board, by their commissions, were clothed with such authority that they had complete control of the government in all its departments, executive, legislative and judicial. Its first meeting was held on the eighteenth day of March, 1636, and formed the first regular organized government in Maine.<sup>1</sup> In its judicial capacity the board transacted no inconsiderable amount of business. During its session, which continued several days, William Scadlock, who came over with Vines’ company in 1630, and is supposed to have been the first permanent settler in Cape Porpoise, brought an action of debt against Morgan Howell, also a resident of Cape Porpoise. Scadlock was also presented for drunkenness and was fined five shillings for the offense.

After remaining in Saco a few weeks William Gorges returned to Agamenticus, where he erected a mansion-house and furnished it. It is believed that he did not remain in this country more than two

<sup>1</sup>This meeting was held in the house of Richard Bonithon, which stood on the east side of Saco River, near the lower Ferry or just above the terminus of the Old Orchard Beach Railroad.—*Shores of Saco Bay*.

years. Four years later, 1639, Gorges obtained a new charter "constituting him lord-proprietary of the Province or County of Maine,"<sup>1</sup> with extraordinary powers of legislation and government," but no change was made in the bounds of his estate. The charter was a liberal one. No time was lost in instituting a government in "due form,"—the prescribed religion was the Episcopal, or that of the Church of England. "His son, Thomas Gorges, was appointed deputy-governor of his domain, with six persons, residents on the spot, for councilors, who were severally to fill the offices of secretary, chancellor, field-marshal, treasurer, admiral and master of ordnance, and were jointly to constitute a supreme court of judicature to meet every month, and to be served by a registrar and a provost-marshal. To form a legislature, eight deputies, 'to be elected by the freeholders of the several counties,' were to be associated with the councilors. Each county was to have its court, consisting of a lieutenant and eight justices, to be appointed by the Council." As a preliminary step in the work of organizing a government on the plan thus prescribed by the "Lord Proprietary," a court was held at Saco, on the western side of the river, now Biddeford, on the twenty-fifth day of June, 1640, the first in Maine by which subordinate officers were appointed, and several causes, both civil and criminal, were disposed of. Palfrey says this court was held by four of the councilors, but other historians,—among them Willis, author of the "History of Portland," who, well versed in the early history of the State, may safely be accepted as reliable authority,—state that all the councilors, together with the deputy-governor, were present, viz.: Thomas Joscelyn, deputy-governor, Richard Vines, Francis Champernoon, Henry Joscelyn, Richard Bonithon, William Hooke and John Godfrey. Willis also states that these persons were men of ability. The new deputy-governor, Thomas Gorges, on his arrival found the mansion-house which had been erected by his cousin and predecessor in office, William Gorges, in Agamenticus, in a wretched condition, barely habitable and nearly destitute of every essential for comfortable housekeeping. His first impressions in regard to the moral character of the inhabitants of his realm

<sup>1</sup> This name, as is generally supposed, was given in compliment to the wife of Charles the First, Maria Henrietta, who owned in France, as her private estate, a province then called the Province of Meyne. "Be this as it may, the name was undoubtedly suggested by the fact that this eastern country had been commonly called the Mayne (main) land in distinction from the numerous islands on its coast."—See "Palfrey's History of New England," to which the compiler is indebted for many of the facts stated in this chapter, and from which he has freely quoted.



must have been anything but favorable. Unquestionably a considerable portion of the early settlers or sojourners in our coast towns were "rough specimens of humanity."

The new deputy-governor and his councilors proceeded with all convenient dispatch to carry out the instructions they had received in reference to the government of the province. It was divided into two counties, of one of which Agamenticus was the principal settlement; of the other, Saco. The annual general courts were appointed to be held at the latter place, while the former place was distinguished, both by being the residence of the deputy-governor and by the dignity of incorporation as a borough (1641). This was followed in the spring of the succeeding year by a "city charter authorizing it and its suburbs, constituting a territory of twenty-one square miles, to be governed under the name of Gorgeana, by a mayor, twelve aldermen, a common council of twenty-four members, and a recorder, all to be annually chosen by the citizens. Probably as many as two-thirds of the adult males were in places of authority."<sup>1</sup> Hazard, in his "State Papers," copies the charter and remarks that "when Gorges made Agamenticus a city he of course meant it to be the seat of a bishop, for the word city has no other meaning in English law." Gorgeana was the first English city incorporated on the western continent.

The Kennebunk River was the dividing line between the two counties; that on the western side of the river was called Yorkshire, with Agamenticus (now York) as its shire town, and that on the eastern side was named New Somersetshire, with Saco for its shire town. County courts had been established in both districts; the whole machinery of the new government was working as smoothly as could be reasonably expected, and the province was comparatively prosperous. This encouraging condition of things did not, however, long continue. The civil wars in England which commenced in 1642, among the consequences of which were the beheading of Charles the First (January 30, 1649,) and the protectorate of Cromwell (1653-58), wrought political changes through the influence of which our little, far-away colony was seriously disturbed, and its situation and prospects materially altered; but to the inhabitants it proved to be only the transit from a government without stability or power, through a path beset with the thickets and thorns of doubt and strife, to a broader field of action, where they were to enjoy

<sup>1</sup> Palfrey.

more of quiet, order and security among themselves than they had hitherto known, and where their position for the coming conflicts with savage foes would be far better than could possibly be hoped for under the rule of Gorges.

The long controversy between Charles the First and his parliament, and the successes of the party hostile to the king and the national religion, greatly encouraged the opponents to the royal cause, among whom the schemers and speculators who had been "kept at bay" by the crown were fully represented. The holders of the Lygonia patent improved the opportunity thus presented (1643) to dispose of their claim. Sir Alexander Rigby, a member of parliament and a republican, was the purchaser. He commissioned as his agent George Cleaves, who had occasionally resided in the territory, with all the powers necessary to enable him to prosecute the claim, etc., etc.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas and William Gorges, the agents of Ferdinando, disputed Rigby's title. A long contest ensued, commencing (1644) in the county courts and terminating in a reference of the whole matter (1649) to the governor-general and commissioners of foreign plantations. Their decision was in Rigby's favor. While this controversy was pending, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who was an active loyalist, was imprisoned by Cromwell and suffered loss of property. He died in 1647. Gorges had accomplished very little during the twenty-five years that had passed since he had received his first charter. He had found it difficult to plant colonies by proxy, and still more difficult to render effective regulations or law that had been framed for their government, with only an imperfect knowledge of their condition and wants. He had been harassed, impoverished and bitterly disappointed. Still he had struggled on in defiance of difficulties at home and in his colony, nursing ambitious projects, and looking trustfully forward to a day when his long-cherished hopes should be realized. When he received the extraordinary charter that was granted to him in 1639, he believed that that day had dawned, and that his toil, expenditures and patient waiting were soon to be rewarded by the possession of the glittering

<sup>1</sup> Cleaves was the first settler in Portland, having as early as 1632 made a clearing and erected a domicile within the present limits of the city. He is described as "a restless, ambitious, self-willed man," but was hardy and energetic, with a fair education. As executive officer of the Province of Lygonia and agent of Rigby he performed his duties with signal ability. He visited England several times, but made Portland his permanent home, where several of his descendants now reside, among whom are some of its most respected citizens.

prize which he had kept constantly in view — "his being's end and aim." He was doomed to disappointment. He never set foot on the soil which had cost him so much labor and anxiety. Bearing in mind the age in which he lived, we are inclined to think, as we read the story of his life, that "notwithstanding all his faults, he deserved a better fate."<sup>1</sup>

Godfrey succeeded Gorges as governor of the whole territory held under the charter of 1639. His position was an exceedingly uncomfortable one. By the decision in Rigby's favor the Province of Maine extended only from the Piscataqua River to the Kennebunk River; indeed, Rigby claimed, through his agent, that it extended to the Mousam, or, as it was then called, the Cape Porpus River, and had the effrontery to issue grants of land lying between the Kennebunk and Little Rivers. The reason assigned for this claim was entirely untenable. It was that the commissioners "merely awarded Rigby a tract forty miles square, without defining the limits." This was simply ridiculous. The only question before the commissioners was whether the forty miles square originally granted to Rigby (with the same bounds, of course,) should be confirmed to him or awarded to Gorges.

In 1650 the government of Massachusetts claimed that "the patent of the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay [March 19, 1628,] granted a territory having for its northern boundary a line extending westward on the Atlantic Ocean on a parallel of latitude three miles north of the most northerly part of the river Merrimac," which included all that was embraced on the patents to Gorges and Rigby. The disturbed condition of public affairs in England, coupled with the entanglements and animosities existing in the Province of Maine, afforded an excellent opportunity for the pressing of a claim which it was hardly to be expected could be successfully urged at a period when order and prosperity prevailed; when it could receive full examination and calm consideration abroad, and when the parties in possession in the coveted territory, poor, weak and divided, were unable to resist the demand of their

<sup>1</sup> Gorges, in his "Narrative," p. 49, attributes his want of success in his efforts to settle the District of Maine: "1st. Beginning when there was no hope of anything but present loss. 2d. Because he sought not barely his own profit, but the thorough discovery of the country for the benefit of others. 3d. He never went in person to see the people whom he employed. 4th. A want of settled government." Dr. Belknap, in reference to the foregoing, says: "Two other things contributed more than these to the failure of the enterprise. The one was their application to trade and fishery instead of husbandry. The other was the idea of lordships and the granting of lands, not as freeholds, but by lease, subject to quitrents."



more powerful neighbors with the strength and energy which the emergency required. Massachusetts, therefore, determined not only boldly to declare its pretensions, but persistently to prosecute them, and to this end commissioners were appointed to visit Maine in furtherance of the object (1651); commencing with the inhabitants of Kittery, then a small settlement, they offered to receive them under the government of Massachusetts, "if terms of agreement could be concluded upon by mutual consent; otherwise having laid claim to the place, they protested against any further proceeding by virtue of their combination, or other interests whatever." This was an initiatory step from which no advantage was obtained, and probably none was expected. Surveyors were appointed early in the ensuing year by the General Court of Massachusetts to trace the line; they reported in October following that they had traced the stream of the Merrimac as far as the parallel of forty-three degrees, forty minutes and twelve seconds, whereupon the above-named commissioners again, and for the second and third time, visited Kittery, which November 20, 1652, "made its submission and was constituted a town of Massachusetts within a new county or shire, which was called by the name of Yorkshire, and embraced all the territory yet claimed by the Bay Company east of the Piscataqua"; courts were established for the county; an organization was prescribed for the towns; assurance was given that the people inhabiting these towns should enjoy protection and equal acts of favor and justice with those inhabiting the towns on the south side of the Piscataqua River and within the "liberties of Massachusetts." Property held under the grant of the town, or of the Indians, or of the former general courts (under Gorges' administration), was confirmed to the possessors, and the town was allowed to send two deputies to the General Court of Massachusetts.

On the twenty-second of November the commissioners held their court at Agamenticus, the inhabitants of which, "after some time spent in debates, and many questions answered and objections removed,"<sup>1</sup> made its submission, fifty persons, among whom were Godfrey and Rushworth, members of Gorges' government, taking the freeman's oath. The name of York was given to the town, and the same privileges accorded to it as had been granted to Kittery. By this act Agamenticus, as a name of a town, and the city of Gorgeana, ceased to exist. The commissioners, on the fourth

<sup>1</sup> Palfrey.

of July in the following year, visited Wells and held their court and summoned the inhabitants of that town, of Saco and of Cape Porpoise to appear before them. Some of the Wells people were decidedly adverse to the movement, and were not at all backward in giving expression to their sentiments; nevertheless, twenty-six, probably the whole number of adults in the town, took the oath;<sup>1</sup> twenty persons were present from Saco, and twelve from Cape Porpoise, all of whom made the required declaration without opposition. That a large part of the inhabitants of these five towns, after a trial of three years, were well satisfied with the new order of things, appears from a memorial signed by seventy of them (who, according to a letter of Rushworth to Governor Endicott, "were the best part if not the greatest part" of the population), to Cromwell, in which they said, "Through God's mercy we enjoy it [the new government] to our good satisfaction, and for our continual settledness under it we daily pray."

In 1658 the inhabitants of Black Point, Spurwink and Blue Point, which were incorporated as the town of Scarborough, acknowledged their allegiance to Massachusetts, and at the same time those residing at Casco Bay, twenty-nine in number, thirteen of whom signed with a mark, took the oath of allegiance, and the name of Falmouth was given to the township.

The accession of Charles the Second to the throne of England, in 1660, was followed in Massachusetts by political troubles of the gravest character, and by an important change in the aspect of affairs in the Province of Maine. A commission consisting of four persons was sent over by the king in 1664, "to obtain information for the king's guidance in his endeavors to advance the well-being of his subjects in New England," etc., etc. The commissioners were directed to make a thorough examination into all matters directly or indirectly affecting the interests of the Crown; subjects

<sup>1</sup>This involuntary act did not render the people of Wells faithful subjects of the Bay State. They were dissatisfied and restless. In May, 1662, a "general court," as it was termed, was held in Wells in the interest of Gorges. Very little is known concerning this assemblage; it was held at the house of Francis Littlefield, Senior, and there is no reason to suppose that it was anything more than a gathering of the inhabitants of the town—a "town meeting"—to consider and express their views concerning the usurpation of the State of Massachusetts. Commissioners from Massachusetts were present at the meeting; they made a formal demand that the meeting should be dissolved, but this order was disregarded. The meeting, so far as can be ascertained, was productive of no results of the slightest consequence. Its only claim to importance is the evidence it affords that the majority of the inhabitants of the township were hostile to the Massachusetts government.

of dispute among the colonists themselves were also to be considered, and they were empowered to adjust differences, reform abuses, etc. In this position of things, it may well be supposed, that disaffected persons in the Province of Maine were ready "to improve the opportunity," and to give publicity to their prejudices or grievances by word and act, while those who were well satisfied with their condition, under the government of Massachusetts, deemed it the dictate of prudence to remain quiet and wait events. From 1661 to 1663, inclusive, a majority of the towns in the province manifested their disaffection by neglecting to send representatives to the general court. These demonstrations induced Massachusetts, in May, 1664, to send a committee to the province "to require all persons belonging to the county to return peaceably to their former obedience, and all officers to attend to the faithful discharge of their respective places."<sup>1</sup>

At about the same time the king, by his secretary, wrote to his trusty and well beloved, the inhabitants upon the Province of Meyn . . . "informing them that he was legally advised that the claim of Gorges was valid, and that the government over them by Massachusetts was usurped, and requiring them forthwith to make restitution of the said province unto the said Ferdinando Gorges [grandson of Sir Ferdinando], or his commissioners, and deliver him or them the quiet and peaceful possession thereof." This was followed on the part of Gorges by some measures looking to the restoration of his authority as heir of his grandfather. Undaunted by these proceedings, the General Court of Massachusetts, in May, 1665, sent a proclamation to the province "requiring all the inhabitants of that county to remain in their duty and obedience to his Majesty, in subjection to the authority of this court." The royal commissioners appeared at York within a month after the date of this proclamation, and proceeded to form a government "independent alike of the proprietary of Gorges and of Massachusetts, and to appoint magistrates for each of the eight towns with authority also to convene as one board for the transaction of business of general concern." This arrangement continued in force two years. The commissioners on their return from an eastern tour held another court at York in October, 1665, "in which they decreed the invalidity of all titles to land acquired from the natives, or under the

<sup>1</sup>The compiler is indebted to Palfrey's "History of New England" for facts stated and quotations made to the end of this chapter.



Lygonia patent, thus destroying the pretensions of Rigby's" son and heir and settling for all time a vexatious controversy.

In May, 1668, the General Court of Massachusetts again took up the case of its county of York. "The French war had frightened the settlers in Maine, living as they did in scattered families, in the face of Indian tribes who were under the influence of the missionaries from Quebec. The king of England took no thought for them; Gorges could not defend them; the only power in posture to afford them protection was Massachusetts, and when again she turned her attention toward them, it was to find the ancient loyalty to her increased, and little opposition to her claims requiring to be overcome, except what was offered by interested officials." The court issued a proclamation requiring the inhabitants of the county to yield obedience to the colonial laws and officers, and subsequently sent four commissioners to York to hold a court and reconstruct the lawful government. "Mr. Josselyn and several others styled justices of the peace," appeared before the commissioners and at the court, and remonstrated against the whole proceedings, on the ground that they (Mr. Josselyn, etc.,) were in authority under the appointment of one of the royal commissioners, but their protest was unheeded.<sup>1</sup> "The Yorkshire towns had already been directed to choose their local officers and jurymen, and their votes were now sent in and counted by the commissioners; constables and jurors were sworn, military officers were put in commission for six companies, and, on the third day of their visit, the commissioners set off for their return to Massachusetts, to report that once more she was mistress of Maine."

The claim of the grandson of Gorges still remained unadjusted. He had not ceased to press it upon the attention of the British government, and, in one form or another, it had been considered at different sessions of the king and his councilors, by whom, in 1675, it was submitted to the attorney-general and solicitor-general, who

<sup>1</sup>The Commissioners of Massachusetts held a "court" at York in July, 1668, which continued in session three days, from the seventh to the ninth of the month. It was a turbulent session. Gorges' adherents were outspoken and firm, but the commissioners could not be outdone in these particulars. York was naturally enough the stronghold of the friends to Gorges; many of his officials resided there, and greater prosperity could reasonably be expected under the rule of Gorges than under that of Massachusetts; but the mass of the people were getting tired of the controversy, and, moreover, it began to be generally believed that the Bay State would maintain its authority over the colony, and then, as now, there were the faint-hearted and those with easily adjusted principles, who were gradually falling into the ranks of the supporters of the pretensions of Massachusetts. The adherents of Gorges evidently lost ground by this protracted and hotly contested struggle.

reported that Gorges "had a good title to the Province of Maine," and the king and council so decreed. The king "was intending to buy Maine of Gorges as an endowment for his son, the Duke of Monmouth," but Massachusetts was not to be "caught napping." As soon as advised of the decision of the king and council, an agent was sent to England to negotiate with Gorges for the purchase of his right in the territory; he was successful, and in consideration of the sum of twelve hundred fifty pounds sterling (about six thousand dollars), paid to him by this agent, Gorges conveyed to the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay his inherited patent, "with all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging." The king on learning this fact was indignant, but the "early bird" had secured the prize. He had it in his power to annoy the colony by which he had been outwitted, but he could not deprive it of the complete and indisputable title by which it held, and which rendered it "lord paramount" of the Province of Maine.

## CHAPTER II.

### 1641-60—EARLY GRANTS—EARLY SETTLERS.

Under date of September 27, 1641,<sup>1</sup> Thomas Gorges, "superintendent of the affairs of Sir Ferdinando Gorges," in a carefully written document, gave to several persons therein named, of the plantation of Exeter, N. H., "who have desired in the behalf of themselves and others to take a certain tract of land lying between Ogunquit River and Kennebunk, and for eight miles up the country," free liberty "to build and take any lands that are there, in Sir Ferdinando Gorges's power to grant, to have and to hold to them and their heirs and assigns forever." This may properly be termed the Charter of Wells. The reason for its peculiar phraseology is found in the fact that, at the time it was given, one Stratton claimed a part of the territory within the limits described. This claim having been proved to be unfounded, Gorges, in another carefully prepared instrument, dated July 14, 1643, describes the bounds of the plantation as follows: "To begin from the northeast side of the Ogunquit River to the southwest side of Kennebunk [River] and to run [from the seashore] eight miles up into the country." He also granted Henry Boad,<sup>2</sup> John Wheelwright,<sup>3</sup> and Edward Rushworth of Wells, "free and absolute power to alot, bound and sett

<sup>1</sup> It was estimated in 1640 that to that date about four thousand families, consisting of twenty-one thousand souls, had arrived in two hundred ninety-eight vessels and settled in this country.

<sup>2</sup> Frequently spelled Boade. His signature to his will, dated January 8, 1654, is written "Henery Boad."

<sup>3</sup> Rev. John Wheelwright was the founder of Exeter, N. H. In May, 1629, he and his associates purchased of the Indians a tract of land about thirty miles square, between the Merrimac and Piscataqua Rivers. The deed conveying this tract was signed by four Indian sachems, and the consideration named consisted of "coats, shirts, kettles," etc., etc. "The genuineness of this deed," Palfrey says, "has been matter of learned controversy. It is generally believed to be a forgery, executed not far from the year 1700." However this may be, the territory was occupied by Wheelwright and his adherents, thirty-five in number, in April, 1638, after he had been banished from Massachusetts on account of his religious opinions. "The first work of Wheelwright was to form a church, of which he became the minister. He was a man of unusual abilities. He it was that drew up the form of government for the little colony—as New Hampshire had as yet no laws—which was signed by the heads of families and styled a 'combination.' The 'combination' was readopted in 1640, and the original document of that date, in the handwriting of Wheelwright, is still preserved in the town clerk's office [in Exeter]."—*News-letter Handbook of Exeter*.

It does not appear that he was molested by the Indians, and, further, Mason,



forth any lotts or bounds unto any man that shall come to Inhabitt in the plantation," on condition that said Wheelwright, Boad and Rushworth shall pay five shillings (about one dollar and twenty-five cents) for every hundred acres they make use of, and that all other persons shall pay five shillings for every hundred acres "that shall be allotted unto them."

John Sanders,<sup>1</sup> undoubtedly the first permanent settler on the territory now known as Kennebunk, received a grant from Thomas Gorges,<sup>2</sup> deputy-governor, etc., of one hundred and fifty acres of land

whose grant from the Plymouth Council included this territory, did not dispute Wheelwright's title, which he claimed he derived by virtue of a deed from the original owners. In 1641 Strawberry Bank (now, and since 1653, Portsmouth) and Dover, by their own accord, placed themselves under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, the chief motive for this step being "the want of some good government," the desire for "help in this particular," and "for the avoiding of such insufferable disorders, whereby God had been much dishonored amongst them." Wheelwright could not but foresee that the action of the two neighboring towns would render it expedient, if not necessary, that Exeter should follow their example, and if so that he would again become subject to the Massachusetts government. It was needful, therefore, that he should seek another location, and hence, undoubtedly, the application by his friends, to Gorges, for the tract of land granted by Thomas Gorges, September 27, 1641, to which, with several members of his Exeter church, Wheelwright removed the following year (1642). According to Palfrey, he gave the name of Wells to the plantation. It is a significant fact in this connection, that in the above-named grant, made in 1641, no name is given to the plantation, but in the subsequent and more definite grant, made about two years later, certain persons residing there are said to be "of Wells."

On his petition and acknowledgment of error in his past ministerial utterances, the decree of banishment against Wheelwright was removed in 1644. He was a resident of Wells about five years, during which time he erected a dwelling-house and saw-mill in the vicinity of Cole's Corner, which for a number of years thereafter was spoken of as the "town's end." In 1647 he removed to Hampton, N. H., where he preached several years; afterward visited England, where "he enjoyed the special regard of Cromwell," who was a college acquaintance, and on his return made Salisbury, Mass., his place of residence for the remainder of his life. He died in 1679, aged eighty-five years.

<sup>1</sup> Sanders was a jurymen in 1645. We regret to find that, a year or two later, he was fined by the court "for disorderly conduct on the Sabbath."

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Gorges and Vines visited the White Mountains in August, 1642. An Irishman named Darby Field, who was an inhabitant of Exeter, N. H., in 1639, it is supposed was the first man who explored this region, about the year 1632. "The report he brought," says Governor Winthrop in his journal, "of shining stones, etc., caused divers others to travel thither, but they found nothing worth their pains." The extravagant representations made by Field, after his return, undoubtedly influenced Gorges and Vines to undertake the journey, with the hope, probably, of finding valuable mines or precious stones. Winthrop gives an interesting description of this excursion, the particulars of which the Governor probably obtained from Vines himself. "They went up Saco River in birch canoes, and that way they found it ninety miles to Pegwagget, an Indian town, but by land it is but sixty. From the Indian town they went up hill (for the most part) about thirty miles in woody lands, then they went about seven or eight miles upon shattered rocks, without tree or grass, very steep all the way. At the top is a plain about three or four miles over, all shattered stones, and upon that is another rock or spire about a mile in height, and about an acre of ground at the top. At the top of the plain arise four great rivers. . . . They went and returned in fifteen days."

lying between Little and Cape Porpus (Mousam) Rivers, and fifty acres of marsh ground, lying on each side of said neck of land and adjoining to said rivers; Sanders paying for the premises unto Sir Ferdinando Gorges, his heirs or assigns, six shillings and eight pence, yearly, on the twentieth day of September, and Edmund Littlefield being empowered "to enter into the premises or part in the name of the whole, and to take possession of the premises, and after possession so taken to deliver possession" thereof unto said Sanders. This instrument is dated July 14, 1643. At this time the Mousam made a short turn a little distance below the dwelling-house of the late Ivory Chick (now owned by George Parsons), and near the ocean, then running southwesterly to the bank near the Henry Hart house, now owned by Charles Parsons (marked by the remains of the dam placed there when the old canal was excavated), it there made another abrupt bend and ran in a southerly direction to the ocean, by "Hart's Rocks," near which are the summer cottages of Charles Parsons and others. From the Mousam, as its course then was, to the Kennebunk River, the travel by the beaches and uplands was unimpeded by streams—the present course of the Mousam, by the western side of Great Hill, having been cut through the upland and the beach, a distance of about one-fourth of a mile, during the years 1846 and 1847; and the "canal," by the eastern side of the hill, about three-fourths of a mile in length, and dividing "Gillespie's Point" in reaching its terminus, was excavated in 1793-94. When the western passage was made, a dam was built across this canal, about one-fourth of a mile from the ocean, thus forming the convenient and pleasant cove where boats, when not in use, are safely anchored, and where the facilities for embarking and landing are excellent.

The grant by Gorges to Sanders appears to have been the first made by him within our territorial limits. Other grants were made about the same time: one of six hundred acres to George Butland, commencing at the seashore on the western side of Kennebunk River, running back a mile into the country; one to William Symands of two hundred acres, bounded by the seashore on the south, Cape Porpus River on the west, and Daniel Pierce's grant on the east; and one to Daniel Pierce, bounded south by seashore, Butland, east, Symands, west, and by Cape Porpus River and the commons on the north. Butland relinquished his grant, or one-half of it, to John Butland, who built a house near the sea and dwelt there many years;

George continued to reside west of Little River; Symands, who was a resident of Wells, sold his lot to his brother Harlackinden, who sold it to Daniel Epps in 1657. Very little is known respecting Pierce; he probably was not a resident of Wells at any time. In 1660 he made a power of attorney, in which he states that he is "of Newbury, Mass."; the instrument is witnessed by his sons, Daniel Pierce, Jr., and Joshua Pierce. There is no mention made of the quantity of land contained in his grant, but references to it, in descriptions of the bounds of other lots, lead us to believe that it was the smallest of the three, say one hundred acres. A grant of a parcel of land, about one hundred acres, was laid out for John Cheater, back of and adjoining the grant to Symands—as we judge by references to its bounds—a few years subsequent to the date of those above named. It is believed that he built a rough dwelling-place on his lot, near the Mousam River, which he occupied with his family several years. He came to Wells from Newbury, Mass., and was known as Lieutenant Cheater. He was here as late as 1662, in October of which year he sold to Daniel Epps, of Ipswich, Mass., five acres of marsh which he purchased of Sanders. He was unable to write his name, but signed with a mark. He was appointed ferryman over Mousam and Little Rivers in 1662, but was succeeded by Nicholas Cole in 1664, about which time he probably left town. It is thought by some that he was a tenant on the Sanders place after it was sold to Cutts. This is not improbable, but we think there is no positive evidence that such was the fact.

We think there is no record of any other grant or grants by Gorges or his authorized agents, east of the stream which constitutes our present western boundary, although it is apparent that several parcels of upland and marsh were so transferred, to different individuals, shortly after the conveyances above named, both on the Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers, before the incorporation of the town of Wells, in 1653, by the Massachusetts commissioners.

There is positive evidence that there were permanent settlers west of Little River several years prior to the date (1641) when Edmund Littlefield located in Wells. Thomas Gorges, under date of September 20, 1642, gave a certificate which was recorded on the county records as a deed, as follows: "I have given a promise to Mr. Cole, about twelve months since, that he should peaceably enjoy that little tract of land lying between his own field and the field of Stephen Batson, which promise of mine, by these



presents, I do confirm and ratify. Recorded at Wells Court, June, 1647, p me Basil Parker Re: Cor." It seems that Cole and Batson, in 1641, had cleared fields, and there does not appear to be room for a doubt that each had erected a dwelling-house. In the erection of these buildings and the clearing of the fields, it is fair to presume they were employed not less than three years, so that it is safe to say there were permanent settlers in Wells as early as 1638. It is not at all probable that Cole and Batson were the only persons who had put up houses and cleared lands in Wells at this date. In looking over old deeds and other ancient documents, we meet with allusions that appear to authorize the statement that there were permanent settlers in Wells as early as 1635.

George Cleaves, as agent for Alexander Rigby, president and proprietor of the Lygonia patent, under the ridiculous claim that his patent extended to the Mousam and even to Little River, granted to John Wakefield and John Littlefield,<sup>1</sup> May 14, 1651, two hundred acres of upland and meadow, "beginning at the foot of the southwest side of the highest hill [Great Hill, which has materially diminished in extent and height since that time], toward Goodman Sanders' land, . . . these lots to run upon a square till the two hundred acres be completed" (embracing all the upland and marsh from Mousam River to the east end of the first sands, and running back about one-third of a mile), "on condition of paying to Rigby's heirs five shillings yearly, on the 29th of September," etc., etc. This conveyance is in the common form of the time, but after the usually closing words, "Witness my hand," etc., he adds, "which is in confirmation of those other my grants being by me thereunto appointed 20th November, 1641. Those tenants to pay upon demand all former void as ould planters, did Allso buit to our to our tyle, according to the time that all the rest was to pay three years past rent and to have a particular grant under my hand at my return out of England," etc. It is impossible, at this day, to obtain a correct idea of the meaning of these enigmatical sentences. They do not appear to refer to the transfer made to Wakefield and Littlefield, but rather to other transactions in preceding years, in other townships, entirely disconnected from it. There is not the slightest evidence that Cleaves ever acted as agent for the Lygonia Company, or that he issued conditional grants in 1641, under authority of the company or sanctioned in any form thereby, of any parcel or parcels

<sup>1</sup> John Littlefield was the son of Edmund, one of the earliest settlers, and John Wakefield's wife, Elizabeth, was a daughter of said Edmund.

of land situated in this township. Following the signature of Cleaves and the signatures of the witnesses is this memorandum: "Pres. of Edmond Littlefield, for John Wakefield and John Littlefield ten shillings this November 1st, 1641, which £10 16s 15d and for grant five shillings for every acre, besides the rent." The meaning of these words and figures it would be useless to attempt to decipher, nor could an explanation of the confusions in dates be undertaken with any promise of success. It is hardly possible that they refer to the Great Hill lot, inasmuch as the terms of the sale are fully and clearly stated in the body of the deed; and as this deed was undoubtedly written and executed in Saco, it is not an unfair inference that the memorandum relates to another transaction and was attached to this instrument through carelessness, or for reasons then well understood by the parties present.

This whole matter is quite unimportant were it not for the fact that these addenda to the deed have led Bradbury (*History of Kennebunkport*) and Bourne (*History of Wells and Kennebunk*) into the error of adopting 1641 as its true date, or as the date when a bond or agreement for the conveyance was given. That it is an error is obvious. (1) The Lygonia patent was granted in 1630, the four patentees being residents in England. In May, 1632, Richard Dummer was intrusted with the management of their interests here, but his proceedings were unsatisfactory and were the subject of complaint by them to Governor Winthrop in December of that year; whether he was deprived of his trust at or about the time of this complaint is not known. There is no evidence whatever that Cleaves ever held the position of manager of their colonial business. They did not sell their patent to Rigby until 1643. Palfrey states that Rigby probably made the purchase at the instance of Cleaves, who was then in London, and who was appointed by Rigby "to take possession and administration of his property." Cleaves returned to this country in 1644. Rigby died in 1650, and his son and heir, in July, 1652, in consequence of unfavorable representations that had reached him, "sent a letter of rebuke to the local rulers, forbidding them to execute any acts of administration till he should give further orders." After this letter had been received here Cleaves's name does not again appear in our local history. (2) Cleaves did not appeal to the court to sustain the Lygonia patent until 1644, and did not get the decision of the commissioners for foreign plantations in his favor until March, 1646, and he did not claim that the Lygonia

patent entitled its possessor to territory west of Kennebunk River until after this decision had been made. (3) Cleaves's deed refers to "Goodman Sanders's land," which was not granted to Sanders until 1643. (4) The first instrument recorded, signed by Cleaves as agent for Rigby, is dated May 20, 1647, and we find no record of grants made by Cleaves, in any capacity, west of Kennebunk River. Edward Rigby, in a letter dated London, 19 July, 1652, complains of improper conduct on the part of divers persons, and adds: "I conceive all acts done either by the deputy-president [Cleaves], the six assistants, the judges, or any other officer whatsoever which had commissions from my father, since my father's death, are void, by reason their commissions ended with his death."

Two days after the date of the deed to Wakefield and Littlefield (May 16, 1651), Knight and Baker, "by virtue of that power and authority committed unto" them, "by Mr. Cleaves, Ex-President," convey to "Goodman Sanders, the older, fifty acres of upland joining to his one hundred and fifty acres [between Mousam and Little Rivers]; the power with me given is received from the Hon. Col. Alex. Rigby, President and Proprietor of the province of Lygonia." This conveyance is signed by Knight and Baker, but a certificate, confirming the sale and giving peaceable possession of the premises to Sanders, which forms a part of the document, and which it is evident was written with the understanding that Cleaves would sign it, is without a signature. In view of the facts that Cleaves is here spoken of as "ex-president," and that he failed to attach his signature to the certificate, there is good ground for the supposition that about this time he had been admonished by Edward Rigby that he must confine his operations within the legal bounds of the Lygonia patent.

"On the 27th of the ninth month," the year not stated, but it is quite evident that it was 1651, John Wakefield, for himself and John Littlefield, in consideration of about thirty-five dollars, sold to Francis Littlefield, senior, and Anthony Littlefield, the whole of the before-named two hundred acres of upland and marsh. Anthony sold his half-part of this purchase, together with his half-part of a grant of thirty acres made to him and Francis, senior, by the town, in 1653, to William Symands, in October, 1658. The deed was witnessed by John Gooch, senior, and John Gooch, junior.

These conveyances, that to Wakefield and Littlefield, and that



to Sanders, are the only ones that were made by or for Cleaves,<sup>1</sup> as agent of lands in the township, that are recorded on the town books, and these, as will be seen, were subsequently formally "confirmed" to the persons in possession by votes of the town of Wells.<sup>2</sup>

In October, 1649, John Wadleigh obtained a quitclaim from sagamore Thomas Chabinocke and his mother, Ramanascho, of all the territory within the bounds of Thomas Gorges' grant to Wheelwright and others. In a memorandum dated March 31, 1650, it is declared that John Wadleigh "took quiet and peaceable possession of the premises described in his Indian right . . . and assigns the same as it shall be inhabited, to be liable to all common charges and rates for the town of Preston, alias Wells." The words "Preston" and "alias" may be noticed while passing. There never was a time when the territory under consideration was generally known as Preston. It was not so called by the Indians,<sup>3</sup> and, as before stated, when the township was first described or bounded by Gorges, in 1641, it was simply termed a "tract of land," but when, in 1643, a confirmation of this grant was made, residents thereon were said to be "of Wells." It is quite probable that Wadleigh and a few others who were not pleased with the name of Wells, or for some other reason not now understood, attempted to give to it the name of "Preston," but it is apparent that the movement found no favor with the larger part of the settlers.

The selectmen appointed by the court held in Wells, July 5, 1653, granted to Francis and Anthony Littlefield, November 27, 1653, a neck of upland, containing thirty acres or thereabouts, commonly called the great neck, lying between Cape Porpus River and Kennebunk River, bounded by Goodman Butland on the northeast, a spruce swamp on the west and the sea on the southeast. This was the first grant made after the incorporation of the town by the Massachusetts commissioners. This lot embraced Great Hill and the projection into the sea on its eastern side. The old canal was cut through it about one hundred years ago, leaving attached to Boothby's Beach a strip of land that has since been known as the

<sup>1</sup> Cleaves sold to Robert Wadleigh, in August, 1650, five hundred acres of upland and marsh, "at the Great Plain, behind the Town Lots," in Wells. This was Cleaves's private property, but from what source he derived his title is not stated.

<sup>2</sup> Bradbury says that "Edmund Littlefield, in making his will, in 1661 [he died the same year], speaks of his farm, on the eastern side of Mousam River, as being specified in two deeds granted by Mr. George Cleaves, agent of Rigby, which is now come into the government of Mr. Gorges." These deeds were not recorded, and we find no other reference to the "farm."

<sup>3</sup> The Indian name of the township was "Nampscoscocke" or "Nimscook."

"Two Acres," on which are the cottages of Hartley and Robert Lord, Mr. Tibbetts of Great Falls, N. H., and others. Great Hill and the adjoining "neck" have been largely encroached upon by the sea, so that now, at high water, but few acres remain uncovered. It is difficult to imagine that the rough, unsightly surface, covered with rocks or coarse gravel and accessible only at low water, was, even a century ago, during the warm season, an exceedingly pleasant spot of earth, bearing good grass and the crops usually cultivated on our farms, and that a comfortable dwelling-house stood thereon, over the site of which the tide now ebbs and flows.

The town granted, June 10, 1659, to Lieut. John Sanders, senior, "a certain tract of land, be it more or less, that lies at the head of said Sanders's land, between Cape Porpus River and the Little River westward and so butts upon the land that was granted to Will Hamons, which Hamons is to begin at the second creek lying up Cape Porpus River, and the said Sanders is to have all the land that is between his own land formerly granted and that second creek." This covers and gives a good title to the land granted by Knight and Baker, as agents of Cleaves, in 1651; and June 26, 1662, the town voted "to grant and run same [referring to the Great Hill lot purchased of Cleaves] to Francis Littlefield, senior, all the land which he doth now hold, whether by purchase or by grant from the town. . . . This is agreed upon by the inhabitants and freemen of the town of Wells," etc. It is evident that Sanders and Littlefield would not have applied to the town for formal action, by which the grants they had respectively derived from Cleaves should be covered and confirmed, if they had not been fully satisfied that these grants, without such action by the town, were entirely valueless.

Robert Wadleigh sold Francis Littlefield, senior, June 17, 1654, two hundred acres of upland and fifty acres of marsh, lying on the northeast side of Cape Porpus River, "beginning at the little hill<sup>1</sup> which butts upon the river where there is an Indian grave stands, for to run up the river towards the lower falls." Consideration about twenty dollars. Whence he derived his title does not appear, but the selectmen of Wells, in due form, "grant and confirm" the premises to Littlefield.

June 10, 1659, the town granted to Thomas Mussell two hundred acres of upland, lying on the northeast side of Cape Porpus

<sup>1</sup>Clay Hill, so-called, near "Clay Hill Bridge." We do not learn that there is any legend or story attached to this Indian grave.

River, beginning above<sup>1</sup> Edmund Littlefield's marsh and to run there four poles in breadth up the river and toward Kennebunk River in length. Mussell sold this to Harlackinden Symonds the twenty-seventh of the following March.

<sup>1</sup>We think this grant was *below* Edmund Littlefield's marsh, which probably included what has since been known as "Rand's marsh" and all below it to the large beaver dam. Mussell's grant was between that made to the senior Larrabee and Storer's land, embracing the lots known later as "Wise's pasture, Hubbard's and Hatch's wood lots," etc., and extended from the Mousam River to the Kennebunk, a distance of one mile, as stated in a deed of the property.



### CHAPTER III.

1660-1674—BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN WELLS AND CAPE PORPUS  
(AFTERWARD ARUNDEL, NOW KENNEBUNKPORT,) ESTABLISHED.

Very little advancement had been made in the settlement of our territory (1660) during the seventeen years that had passed since the grant to Sanders by Gorges; all the land on the coast, between Little and Kennebunk Rivers, was in the possession of five individuals. Butland held from the Kennebunk to the commencement of "the second sands," running back one mile from the sea—a tract of six hundred acres; Francis Littlefield, senior, Daniel Pierce and Harlackinden Symonds<sup>1</sup> held from the commencement of the second sands to the Cape Porpus River, running back about one-third of a mile from the sea, while Sanders held all between the Cape Porpus and Little Rivers, running back to the "second creek lying up the Cape Porpus." A few other grants, near to these, had been made. Only three dwelling-houses had been erected in the time—one by Sanders, near the mouth of the Cape Porpus; one by Cheater, in the vicinity of the second creek on said river, and one by Butland, near the mouth of the Kennebunk. The three rivers had, however, we have reason to believe, been thoroughly explored by parties from the Saco, York and Exeter settlements, as well as by wandering adventurers from more distant localities, some of whom were influenced by curiosity only, while others were impelled by a desire for speculation or permanent settlement as farmers or fishermen.

A controversy had arisen in reference to the boundary line between the towns of Cape Porpus and Wells. This year (1660) a committee was appointed by each of the towns, with authority to meet at a convenient time and place, examine into the merits of the question at issue, and establish permanently the boundary line. These committees met, and, after duly considering the subject-matter that had been referred to them, decided unanimously that the Kennebunk River was the true dividing line between the two towns.

<sup>1</sup> Symonds sold his two hundred acres to Daniel Epps, of Ipswich, Mass., in March, 1660, and describes the bounds of the lot, in part, as follows: "Beginning at the north side of Daniel Pearse's upland, and also on the north side of ould Littlefield's marsh, as It hath beene called," etc.

Their report, as recorded on the Wells Town Records, vol. I, page 4, was as follows:—

“We whose names are here under written being Chosen by the Towne of Capporpus and Wells for the laying out of the dividing line of each Towne doo Mutually agree, the River Kenibunck shall be ye bounds of Capporpus and soe to the uttmost Extent of both the Towns being Eight Miles up into the Country. witness our hands this 10th day of May 1660.

EDMUND LITTLEFIELD	}	[Committee on the part of Wells.]
WILL HAMONS		
WILL SCADLOCK	}	[Committee on the part of Cape Porpus.]
MORGAN HOWELL		

“This is a true Cappy Transcribed out of the Originall & Examined word for word. Attest me Jos: Bolles.”

“The Court allows and approves of the Returnes June 6th 1660. As attest Edw: Rawson, Secretary.”

This decision gave great offense to the inhabitants of Cape Porpus, who more than intimated that their committee had acted under the influence of intoxicants. While it is true that Scadlock and Howell were “hard drinkers,” it is equally true that they were among the leading citizens of the town, and it was unjust, without adducing convincing proof in support of the accusation (which does not appear), to charge them with the serious misdemeanor of bartering the rights of their constituents for the paltry amount of their board and grog bills during the few days they were in session. In view of the facts bearing upon the question before them, it is difficult to imagine a line of reasoning by which they could have arrived at any other decision. It was indisputable that the Kennebunk River always had been the eastern boundary of Wells—a doubt had never been entertained that the river which Martin Pring entered and on which he sailed a short distance, in 1603, was the Kennebunk River, then (in 1660) so-called, and that, from time immemorial, neither by native nor white man, had it been known by any other name; there was no possibility of a mistake on this point. It is reasonable to suppose that the fact was well known to the members of both committees, that the Indian name for the then so-called Cape Porpus was Mousam; there existed neither record nor tradition that could afford the slightest aid in solving the natural and pertinent inquiry—why, when or by whom was the name Cape Porpus first given to this stream, situated about five miles west of

the true Cape Porpus, between which cape and stream was a river affording greater facilities for navigation, and widely known as the first in this locality whose waters had been touched by a European keel.

There seems to be no other explanation that possesses the merit of possibility than the reasonable conjecture, that, after Smith returned to Europe from the voyage during which he gave its name to Cape Porpoise,<sup>1</sup> and after the publication of his account of his discoveries and description of the country he had visited, some European adventurer came to our shores in pursuit of the fishing-ground he had described, and, mistaking the mouth of the Indian Mousam for Smith's Cape Porpoise, had given to the river the name of the latter, which had passed from fisherman to settler and thus had been generally adopted and used by the inhabitants of Wells and its vicinity only, from about 1628 to the then present time. Unless it could be shown that by some wonderful act of conjuration the Kennebunk had been moved in a westerly direction and made to occupy the bed of the Cape Porpus, while the last-named had been, by a like supernatural operation, transferred to the bed of the Kennebunk, all arguments based on the names of the rivers are worthless.

The fact that in many of the instruments conveying and describing land bounded by this river, made prior to December, 1681, the words "commonly called," or others of like import, precede the name "Capeporpus," shows very clearly that although it was almost invariably used on the town records and in legal papers, the river was, nevertheless, frequently otherwise designated when referred to in conversation. We very rarely find the prefix, "commonly called" applied to the Kennebunk River.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Captain Smith probably gave the name of Cape Porpoise to that cape in consequence of seeing a shoal of porpoises in its neighborhood. This fish, from its resemblance to the hog, is frequently called the sea hog or puffing pig. The word was originally written *porcus pscis*, from the Latin words, — *porcus*, a hog, and *pscis*, a fish; but at the time Captain Smith named the Cape he spelled it *Pork-piscis*. The orthography of the word gradually changed to *Porpiscies*, *Porpisse*, *Porpers*, and, at the time of the incorporation of the town, in 1653, to *Porpus*. It was first written *Porpoise* on the county records in 1672.—*Bradbury*.

<sup>2</sup>The author has attempted, in his historical address, delivered July 4, 1876 (extracts from which will be found in succeeding pages of this volume), to furnish a satisfactory explanation of the origin of the misnomer of the river, as well as tenable reasons for believing that its Indian name was *Mousam* and that Sayword was influenced so to call his mills because he was satisfied of this fact. Although the river, since 1672, has been called *Mousam* and the village near the falls has also borne that name, still we infer it was not used in the recording of town votes or in conveyancing until 1681, inasmuch as the first mention of *Mousam River* on the town records appears in the record of a town vote, December 6, 1681, granting one hundred acres of upland.



In the "History of York County," under the title of "Sanford," is the following statement, which fully confirms our position in reference to the Indian name of the river: "The location [of the town of Sanford] was formerly called by the Indians, Mousam, which name still attaches to the main stream which flows through the town, affording seventeen fine mill powers.

Cleaves's assumption of ownership of and jurisdiction over territory west of the Kennebunk River admitted of no tenable defense. The question submitted to the arbitration of the commissioners for foreign plantations was not, whether Rigby should be allowed to make up for any deficiency in his forty square miles by crossing the Kennebunk and seizing the land between it and Little River, but, whether the territory within the bounds described in Dye's patent (1630) between Cape Porpus and Cape Elizabeth rightfully belonged to Gorges or to Rigby, who had purchased Dye's patent. They decided in favor of Rigby's claim and thus, we are informed by standard historical works, Gorges's domain was reduced to the comparatively small territory lying between the Kennebunk and the Piscataqua.<sup>1</sup> No historian, it is believed, has named other bounds. And, moreover, in any event, what good reason existed why any deficiency in acreage should not have been made up, in whole or in part, by crossing Dye's eastern as well as his western boundary? It is believed that none has been or can be adduced.

The Lygonia or Dye patent was granted—in direct violation of the rights of Gorges—by the Council for New England, whose place of business was in England; a company which had rendered itself notorious for its carelessness and blunders, and which, after some fifteen years of reckless management, surrendered its charter to the Crown. The bounds of the patent are clearly defined, but it will not be pretended that there had been any survey or measurement of the tract granted; the number of miles stated must have been mere guess-work on the part of the grantees, who were careful that their estimate should cover the entire length and breadth of the territory embraced within their limits, and this computation was adopted by the grantors, without personal knowledge, data or reflection. Intelligent, fair-minded men, in view of these facts, would not regard this wild estimate of quantity as entitled to any consid-

<sup>1</sup>[The commissioners] had decided that the river Kennebunk was the boundary between them [Gorges and Rigby], thus severing Saco from the principality of Maine. Reduced to these dimensions, Maine comprehended on the mainland only Gorgeana, Wells . . . and Kittery.—*Palfrey*, vol. II, p. 383.

eration. That Cleaves considered his claim a doubtful venture is clearly shown by his marked respect for the grants made by Gorges, the caution with which he proceeded in making his own conveyances, and the discrepancies in dates and the inexplicable expressions and figures that characterize these instruments; the celerity with which the purchasers of the Great Hill tract disposed of the property to other parties may well be regarded as proof that they themselves had no faith in the validity of the transaction.

Edmund Littlefield, one of the committee to settle the boundary line, it is fair to infer, was on excellent terms with Cleaves. He was present when the Great Hill conveyance was made, was a witness to the grant—through proxies—to Sanders, and as it appears by his will had himself received from Cleaves two grants of land situated west of the Kennebunk. It is unquestionably true that Littlefield thoroughly understood the merits of the controversy, and we find him unhesitatingly deciding that this claim was groundless and inadmissible.

An examination of the arguments employed by the good people of Cape Porpus, in the advocacy of their cause, cannot fail to impress one with the opinion that the "motive power" with them was the desire for more territory; that they looked with something more than "longing eyes" upon the broad dimensions of the township of Wells, and, perhaps, thought it justifiable to endeavor to enlarge, "by hook or by crook," their own more limited acreage, by adding to it a liberal slice from the domain of their neighbor.

Wells, in this controversy, had acted simply on the defensive; and, in previous years, when Cleaves was making grants of land within its limits, had taken no action in the matter. It was not in a position to do so. It could only look to the agents of Gorges, in the peculiar condition of things, for decisive measures; but, certain it is, there is no known record or circumstance that countenances, in the slightest degree, the idea that Wells at any time favored or admitted the claim of Rigby's agent, no evidence whatever that, either by word or act, the settlers between the Kennebunk and Little Rivers ever considered themselves as belonging to Cape Porpus or as citizens of any other township than that of Wells.

Six years later (1666) the royal commissioners, sent over to New England by Charles the Second, held a court in York, and then and there formally decreed "the invalidity of all titles to lands acquired under the Lygonia patent," thus setting at rest, forever, all claims or pretensions based on this iniquitous proceeding.

## CHAPTER IV.

1669-84—THE FIRST MILLS ERECTED IN 1669—THE HARDSHIPS OF  
THE BUILDER—HIS DEATH—HIS PROPERTY HELD BY MORTGAGEES  
—THEIR OPERATIONS.

Henry Sayword<sup>1</sup> was a native of England, a millwright by profession, and came to this country in 1637. He was a temporary resident in several towns in New Hampshire, but failing to find a location that he regarded as desirable he extended his researches beyond the Piscataqua. In York the outlook was far better than in any other township he had visited, and here he established himself, purchased or obtained a grant of land, erected or rented a dwelling-house, and built mills on a site near "where sometym the ould mill stooode which was erected by Hugh Gayl and Will Effingham." He was prosperous for a time and carried on an extensive and remunerative business. We are unable to state the date when he became a resident of York. We find that the town of York granted to him, between the years 1660 and 1664, "fifty acres of upland, eighty poles in breadth from his former bounds, east, and one hundred poles in length, running due south." It appears that he was then the owner of a lot of land, but whether he derived his title by a grant from the town, which is the most probable, or by purchase, cannot be ascertained; no record exists of a grant to or purchase by him prior to this date. References to him in various papers indicate very clearly that he sustained the character of a large-hearted, industrious and enterprising citizen, and that he was always ready to buy, sell or lease real estate, to contract for work or to engage in any business pursuit that held out the promise of prospective or immediate gain, but it is equally evident that impulsiveness was a leading trait of his character, to which may be traced his subsequent embarrassment, which ended in bankruptcy and, we can probably safely add, death; he lacked the essential quality of true discernment.

In June, 1667, Sayword contracted with the selectmen of York to build a meeting-house for the use of said town. The third article

<sup>1</sup>This surname is uniformly spelled on the records, on all documents bearing his signature, Sayword.



of this agreement provides that Sayword shall "inclose the said meeting-house with good sound plank slabs three inches thick and to batten the said plank sufficiently on the outside and to civer it with good inch boards on the topp, & with inch &  $\frac{1}{2}$  boards underneath," etc.; the seats to be removed from the old meeting-house to the new at the town's charge and Sayword engages "to place them [in the new] at his own charge for the most convenience." This contract was satisfactorily performed by Sayword, who received from the town, as compensation, three hundred and seventy acres of land, twenty of which was "a grassy swampe"; another parcel containing one hundred and seventy acres; also twenty poles of land to be added to his home lot, together with the privilege of cutting logs on certain parcels of land, and other minor privileges.

Sometime during the year 1668 Sayword's mills were destroyed by fire—a misfortune by which he became financially embarrassed. He concluded not to rebuild in York, if he could obtain a situation where the water-power was greater and better facilities offered for enlarging his business than were in prospect if he rebuilt on the site hitherto improved by him. Hearing of the excellent water-powers on the Mousam River, then known as the Cape Porpus River, he visited this locality, and an examination of the privilege which he afterward improved, led him at once to take measures for its possession. On making known to the town authorities of Wells his desire to erect mills here, if suitable encouragement were given him, he was met with a hearty welcome and with a proposition so liberal that he could not for a moment hesitate about its acceptance.

January 4, 1669, the town granted to Henry Sayword and James Johnson, of York, and Thomas Paty, of Wells, "liberty to build a saw-mill at Cape Porpus River falls, together with privilege of the said river for the transporting of boards and logs, also liberty to cut pitch-pine timber upon the commons adjoining the river, for the use of said mill," for which they were to pay to the town five pounds sterling yearly, on the last day of May, in merchantable boards, delivered at some convenient landing-place in the town. On the same day the town granted to Henry Sayword three hundred acres of upland, lying on the northeast side, and one acre, adjoining the falls, on the west side of the Cape Porpus River, and also to James Johnson and Thomas Paty each one hundred acres of upland, "lying on the northeast side of Cape Porpus River, out of any man's propriety."

Sayword and his companions commenced operations without loss of time, the initiatory step being the erection of a dwelling-house which stood on the bank of the river, opposite the beginning of the falls—in later years known as “Emerson’s Falls”—on the land now owned by Mrs. Jefferson Sargent. The remains of the cellar were distinctly visible a few years ago, but no trace of this excavation is now to be seen. The house was a rough structure, intended only as a shelter for the proprietors and their operatives.

Here and then, under the auspices of Henry Sayword, “Mousam Village” was founded. Within its present boundaries, aside from the zigzag “Saco path,” there were no signs of civilization. The forest in all its stateliness and gloom stood there, as it had for centuries before, and the land it covered was a part of the great Indian hunting-ground. Indians and wild beasts had hitherto held entire and undisturbed possession of the domain. With such surroundings the first white settlers commenced the work of improvement; brought to the ground the first tree that had ever fallen on this territory by the agency of the white man; obstructed the free flowing of waters where they had rolled along for centuries unimpeded, and built a domicile, the first in this vicinity after the fashion of the “pale-face” settlers. These pioneers were respectable men, could read and write passably well, and each of them we have reason to believe was correct in his habits. Johnson, whose home was in Hampton, N. H., was a millwright and had been a partner with Sayword in carrying on the mill at York; Paty was a weaver by profession, an inhabitant of Wells, and a careful, industrious and intelligent citizen.

The house made tenantable and the dam—a low, inexpensive structure—erected, preparations were made for the construction of the mill. At this point it was necessary to fix upon a plan—embracing all the details as to size, equipment, etc., etc.,—of the contemplated buildings. Sayword would have a mill of large dimensions, with two saws, and, this completed, would put up a corn-mill,<sup>1</sup> with two sets of millstones, which would, altogether, form an establishment that would equal, if not outvie, any other devoted to similar uses in this part of the country. Johnson and Paty were more

<sup>1</sup>The building of a grist-mill in the wilderness, by Sayword, was not so rash an undertaking as our first impressions would lead us to consider it. His employees were to be provided with meal; some custom would undoubtedly be obtained from the natives. It was not visionary to suppose that his mills and the frequent visits of coasters to the landing-place would cause an increase of settlers in the vicinity, and the crews of the coasters, besides the supplies required on shipboard, might be expected, in the then scarcity of such mills in the country, to bring corn or grain to be ground for home use and perhaps for their neighbors.

moderate in their views ; the outlook to them was far from encouraging ; a considerable part of the machinery, as well as of the provisions, must be bought on credit, and there were many other indispensable articles of merchandise that must be so purchased, all of which would aggregate a large sum, for the payment of which they had no ready means. Sayword was sanguine, Johnson and Paty timid and faithless. The result was that Johnson and Paty declined to proceed and the partnership was dissolved. They were, doubtless, somewhat influenced in their decision by the reckless manner in which Sayword managed his private affairs. Before the dam had been completed, July 12, 1670, he purchased, conditionally, of Daniel Epps, three farms,<sup>1</sup> upland and meadow, formerly the property of John Gooch, Sr., Samuel Austin, Thomas Mussell or Mussey, and so much of the land bought by him of the Wadleighs as lay between Cape Porpus and Kennebunk Rivers. There were no buildings on these lands.

Johnson withdrew on the twenty-third of December, 1670, receiving one bill of twenty pounds "in full satisfaction both and as well of all work the said Johnson hath wrought and done for said Sayword before the date hereof," and also "in full of all the right and interest said Johnson had by virtue of any grant or grants heretofore granted to him by the town of Wells," relinquishing all rights in the property and improvements and acquitting Sayword of "all debts and dues" whatsoever. Paty withdrew a few days later and conveyed to Sayword all his right in the privileges and land which the copartners received from the town of Wells (reserving the grant to himself by the town of one hundred acres), Sayword granting to

<sup>1</sup>One farm of two hundred and fifty acres of upland and thirty or forty acres of marsh, on the southeast side of Cape Porpus River, adjoining John Sanders, which Epps bought of John Gooch, Sr., in 1662; a farm of two hundred acres of upland and fifteen of marsh, on the Cape Porpus River, adjoining upland and marsh formerly held by Sanders and Gooch, which Epps bought of Samuel Austin in 1662; a farm of two hundred acres, bought of Thomas Mussell (sometimes written Mussey), on the northeast side of Cape Porpus River, "beginning below Edmund Littlefield's marsh [known afterward as Wise's pasture], and running four poles in breadth up river and toward Kennebunk River in length." Besides these "farms" Epps conveyed to Sayword such part of the land that he bought of John and Robert Wadleigh, in March, 1659, "as lies between Cape Porpus and Kennebunk Rivers, from the sea wall to the Great Falls that are by estimation seven or eight miles up in the country," the land "only excepted that lyeth in the possession of Buckeland, Daniel Pearse, Wm. Symands and John Cheater." In December, 1670, Epps sold to Simon Lynde, of Boston, for about twelve hundred dollars, all his interest in these lands and also in the covenant between himself and Sayword respecting them, which stipulated that the grantee should pay to the grantor, within six years, three hundred pounds sterling in merchantable boards, at fifty shillings per thousand, delivered in Boston; failing to fulfill this contract then the said lands to be returned to the said Epps, his heirs or assigns.



him (Paty) "the right to cut logs on Sayword's lands, the free use of one saw in the mill, when completed, to saw such logs as he may cut and bring to the mill," and also "to cut grass and make hay upon that marsh that the said Sayword hath by virtue of the general court's order, up in the county, out of the bounds of the town of Wells," sufficient for eight oxen.

Sayword proceeded with his work, adhering to his original plan, but before the saw-mill was completed, June 20, 1672, one Robert Gibbs, of Boston, to whom Sayword was indebted in the sum of four hundred pounds sterling, presented his claim for payment, in satisfaction of which Sayword gave him a mortgage of "all that my dwelling-house, with my mill I am now building at Wells, together with all my lands lying and being between Cape Porpus River and Kennebunk River, being about a mile broad and a mile in length, be it more or less" (derived from a grant by the town of Wells).

Sayword toiled on, and during the summer of 1673 completed his mill. Then, in September of that year, came Simon Lynde, of Boston, with a large claim upon Sayword, who, "in consideration of sundrey valewable somes of money," which he justly owed the claimant, gave him a mortgage of one-half part of all his "house-ing, saw-mill, corn-mill, . . . which said mills are situate at a place called by me Mousam Mills, being upon or near to the river commonly called Cape Porpus River, together with the half-part of all and every my several tracts of lands and meadows, . . . part thereof being purchased by me and part thereof being given and granted to me by the hon. general court of the Massachusetts colony and by the town of Wells," together with the several farms and tracts of land and meadow which he conditionally bought of Daniel Epps, already assigned to said Lynde by said Epps, the said Sayword now assenting thereto.

How long Sayword operated these mills is not known, but it appears to be quite certain that he could not have done so, in person, later than the middle of the summer of 1674;—perhaps he employed Henry Brown and James Oare<sup>1</sup> to operate them until the first of June, 1675, inasmuch as at this time he conveyed to them, in consideration of "a parcel of work by me already accepted," two hundred acres of land, being twenty rods downward from the mill

<sup>1</sup>Spelled on the records, in different instruments, Carr, Tare and Torr. If there was a James Carr resident in Wells between the years 1669 and 1675, it is certain he had no connection with these mills as owner of any part of them or of the contiguous land, or as a master workman.

house at "Mowsome,"<sup>1</sup> to the "first hill, where the path goeth up a little Ashen swamp," at the foot of the hill, "and so to run backwards into the woods from the water side, until the two hundred acres are completed."

An agreement between Henry Sayword, "of York," and Bartholomew Gedney, of Salem, Mass., and a deed, Sayword to Gedney, both dated October 14, 1674, declare that they are joint and equal partners in the purchase of a tract of land and river from Westcustogo Falls, now North Yarmouth, to the head of the river, extending two miles on each side,<sup>2</sup> in Casco Bay, and, also, "in the new mills, viz.: one saw-mill, with two saws, and one corn-mill, that are now building" thereon, that Gedney has disbursed his full share for the building of said mills, that Sayword, having "already set up a dam upon the first falls and raised the frame for a saw-mill and corn-mill," engages to "completely build up the said mills, to substantially finish the dam," and to build and finish a dwelling "suitable to entertain such workmen as may be employed in managing the mills," the whole work to be completed about the middle of May, 1675, and, also, to give Gedney a mortgage deed of his, Sayword's, half-part of the mills, etc.; the condition being that Sayword shall deliver to Gedney one hundred and ten thousand merchantable pine boards, at specified dates, the last named being September, 1677; failing to fulfill this obligation, the entire mills, etc., to become the property of Gedney, who shall rent his part of the mills to Sayword on conditions specified in the aforesaid agreement.

Sayword died in or about the year 1677, and of course did not complete the mills or fulfill the condition of his mortgage to Gedney. Probably the whole property came into the possession of Gedney for advances made by him, and Sayword had toiled for naught at Westcustogo, as he did at Mousam. The history of this energetic and ambitious man is a sad one. He had labored assiduously for years, depriving himself and family of the comforts of life; he had suffered anxiety in consequence of the imperious demands of his creditors, and died leaving his estate irretrievably embarrassed. It appears, however, that his family were not left penniless; under the provisions of law the widow was entitled to and received a portion of his estate at Westcustogo. He never moved

<sup>1</sup>The writer of this deed undoubtedly spelled this word as it was pronounced at that time.

<sup>2</sup>Possession of this tract was given to Sayword and Gedney, "according to law, by Turff and Twigg."

his family to Kennebunk. In all legal instruments signed by him and in all instruments in which reference is made to him, he is said to be "of York." He left Westcustogo broken down and sick and returned to his home in York, where he died a few months later. He left three children, two sons and a daughter, all of whom, together with their mother, remained in York during their natural lives. There are, doubtless, among the many respectable persons in the ancient town of York who answer to the name of Sayward or Sayword, some who can trace their lineage to Henry, of Mousam mills memory, and his wife Mary.

The conflicting claims of mortgagees of the mills and other property in Kennebunk were before the courts three or four years, and the contest was not settled until 1679 or 1680, when Jonathan Corwin<sup>1</sup> recovered judgment under Gibbs's mortgage (then held by Corwin), and took possession of the estate. He employed Brown and Oare<sup>2</sup> to operate the mills, which they did faithfully and profitably for more than seven years. They had in their employ several of their countrymen who were competent workmen, all of whom it is believed were in Sayword's employ while he was engaged in putting up the machinery in his mills, and afterward in operating them. Small coasting vessels came up to the landing-place, as they did while Sayword had the mills under his control, bringing needed

<sup>1</sup> Corwin gained an unenviable notoriety, a few years later, as one of the magistrates before whom several "witchcraft cases" were tried.

<sup>2</sup> From time immemorial the brook which runs through the lower part of the village and discharges its waters into the Mousam, near the "Leather Board Mills," has been known as "Scotchman's Brook." It is supposed to have derived its name from these men. They, with one Stuart, a Scotchman, an intimate friend of theirs, and perhaps others of the same nationality, built and occupied a rude dwelling-place on its banks. The statement that Brown and Oare had a grant of the land through which the brook runs is incorrect. Sayword's grant embraced all this portion of our territory. Brown and Oare's grant (1679), according to the surveyor's return, "begins next to Mr. John Corwin's land, below the landing-place at Mousam, and so runs down the river, etc., including ten acres of marsh." We also find the record of a grant to Brown and Carr (doubtless a mistake, "Carr" should have been written "Oare"), April 16, 1684, of "four or five acres of meadow land, on the western side of Mousam River, where they can find it without intrenching on any man's propriety." This grant was laid out to them and Stuart, April 23, 1686, "on a point joining to the lower falls, bounded by the river on the one side, and on the other side bounded with the brink of the hill at the north and with a little brook, and at the south end with a little brook, which doth contain about four acres and a quarter." No mention is made subsequently of this grant. Robert Stuart, above-named, had a grant (1681) of one hundred acres of upland and ten acres of marsh, on Kennebunk River, lying on the southeast side of the first-named grant to Brown and Oare, but it was never improved by him. Both Brown and Oare made marks for their signatures; Stuart could write his name. Stuart, spelled in later days Stewart, or his near descendants probably settled in Wells, west of Little River, as the present residents of this name claim him as their ancestor.



supplies of all kinds and taking the lumber that had been sawed here to other ports. A blacksmith's shop was added to the works, which was built on the west side of the river. Everything appears to have gone on smoothly and prosperously until 1688, when, during an Indian outbreak the savages destroyed the mills and all other buildings belonging to the concern. The employees fled, and for many years the forest did not again echo the sounds produced by machinery or the voices of busy workmen. The downfall of the white man, excepting, perhaps, that of a casual visitor, was not heard in this locality for nearly forty years, and during this "march of time" Corwin had left the active scenes of life; contesting claimants and unsecured creditors had also passed along to the unseen world or relinquished their rights as valueless; the conditions of many of the grants of land, within the territory under consideration, had been broken, and these lands had reverted to the town and had been granted to other persons.

From the time when Sayword's mills were destroyed (1688), until one-fourth part of the years of the seventeenth century had been numbered, the falls on which these mills had stood were untrammelled by dams or booms; the water flowed over the rocks, in its oceanward course, as free and unrestrained as had been its wont through all the centuries since the river's bed had been formed. The site of our present village was a dense forest, excepting a small space east and north of the mill yard, where trees had been felled to supply logs for the saw, leaving stumps and brushwood—those sorry features in any landscape—and excepting, also, paths leading to the landing-place on the Mousam, to the Larrabee settlement and thence to the Great Neck, to the first sands (Gooch's Beach), and the "Saco path," leading by Littlefield's mill site, and the path thence to Storer's mill farther down the Kennebunk, which it is more than probable was continued to the mouth of the river.

For forty years the valuable water-power that was improved by Sayword had been entirely neglected, it is reasonable to suppose, chiefly, if not altogether, from fear of complications growing out of claims that might be presented by the heirs or assigns of Corwin, but now (1728) there seemed to be no ground for apprehensions of this description, and a grant was made, by the "proprietors," of the old mill lot to Joseph Hill and John Storer, which was laid out and the bounds renewed, "as formerly of three hundred acres of land on the northeast side of Mousam River, adjoining the river and falls,

and one acre on the west side, with all the privileges of the fall and river, which was formerly granted unto Henry Sayword, of York."

The bounds of said lot—"in breadth by the river two hundred and sixty rods and so running back east-north-east two hundred rods—beginning below the old landing-place at Mousam, some few rods below the mouth of a brook running into the river by the landing-place, and so running up two hundred and sixty rods, which is about twenty rods above a certain turn in the river, near the path going to the Upper Mousam Mills, from thence east-north-east two hundred rods, and also from a certain white pine,<sup>1</sup> marked, below the landing-place and brook first named, to run two hundred rods east-north-east and then to run to the upper corner bounds, so the river being the bounds on the one side and the trees towards Kennebunk river on the other side." The northern boundary was "by the river, below the old wading-place, some small distance from where the old mills formerly stood, and so down by the river." The one acre on the west side is described as "beginning a little above where the old boom formerly was, and so from the river four rods and then down by the river forty rods." A highway "from where the old boom formerly was to the landing-place," was to be reserved as required in the original grant. Hill and Storer built a saw-mill on the old site, in 1730, which was very successfully operated for several years. "The Gut," so-called, opposite John H. Ferguson's home lot, was the race-course of this mill, or the canal along which the water was conveyed to the river from its water-wheel. The business activity of by-gone years was now resumed. Vessels came up to the landing-place bringing such supplies as were desired, and taking away the manufactured lumber, or so much of it as was not

<sup>1</sup>This pine was a gigantic tree and was justly regarded as one of the "monarchs of the forest." It was, at the time of this survey, evidently very old and fast decaying. Not many years subsequently, the tree was blown down, breaking off some twelve or fifteen feet from the ground. This stump stood many years, an object of considerable interest on account of its size and because it marked the seaward terminus of the highway and of the original mill lot. Near the commencement of the last century two young men (Joseph Marsh, a clerk in the store of Joseph Storer, and George Perkins) walked down to the landing-place one day, and while there Marsh drew a "sun-glass" from his pocket and, playfully remarking that he would burn up the old stump, held it so as to bring the rays of the sun to bear on a dry and rotten portion of it, which soon ignited and burned slowly. After watching it awhile, the young men left it, thinking the fire would soon find solid wood and go out; it continued to burn, however, a day or more, until it was extinguished by a heavy rain, but not before its altitude had been reduced to between three and four feet. This is the history of the "old stump," a boundary mark, near a fishing-boat station and the object of many conjectures. It is still to be seen, but greatly diminished in size from its original dimensions.

needed for home consumption. How long this mill was in operation is not known. It was seriously injured by a freshet, the precise date of which we are not able to learn. Traditional accounts differ, some fixing it at 1740, others five years later. A remnant of the mill was standing in 1750, but so thoroughly shattered that an attempt to repair it was considered unadvisable, especially as the dam and boom had almost entirely disappeared.

In 1741 Ichabod Cousens procured the survey and renewal of the bounds of a tract of land which he bought of the heirs of Jonathan Corwin, containing two hundred and two acres and lying on the northeast side of Mousam River, being about two-thirds of the tract granted to Sayword in 1669. It had been fully fifty years since Corwin or his heirs had made any movement for the maintenance of Corwin's ownership of this property under Gibbs's mortgage, and it was supposed that it had been abandoned, or legally forfeited to the town; the land and privilege had been regranted by the town and a saw-mill had been erected on the privilege. The heirs of Corwin now came forward (1741) and claimed all that had been conveyed by Sayword to Gibbs in 1671. It appears that the validity of Corwin's title was acknowledged, whether without, or after, litigation, we have not sought to obtain information. Ichabod Cousens sold his purchase to Thomas Cousens, Joseph Storer and Joseph Coburn; Coburn sold his interest to Storer, and Cousens sold nearly all of his part to James Kimball, commencing at the spot where the Bryant house now stands and running, as the road ran, to the eastern side of Mr. Sidney T. Fuller's lot "on the hill." How far back, riverward, this lot ran we have not ascertained. Storer and Hill obtained possession of the privilege and mill. We shall have occasion to refer to this subject again.



## CHAPTER V.

1680-1700—KENNEBUNK RIVER MILLS, MILLS AT MOUSAM, GREAT FALLS AND LITTLE RIVER—COXHALL—GRANTS ON OR NEAR MOUSAM, KENNEBUNK AND LITTLE RIVERS.

The town of Wells, March 16, 1680, made grants of one hundred acres of upland, adjoining or near "Kennebunk River Great Falls," to each of the following named persons: Edmund Littlefield, Nicholas Cole, Nathan Littlefield and Samuel Littlefield. Edmund Littlefield's lot, as laid out, was "eightscore rods in breadth by the river, beginning fourscore rods above the falls and so to run downward, and to run back from the river upon a southeast line." Cole's was laid out next below Littlefield's lot, eightscore rods in breadth by the river, and running back upon a southwest line one hundred rods; Nathan Littlefield's was next to Cole's, eightscore rods and to run back one hundred rods; Samuel Littlefield's was laid out next above Edmund Littlefield's lot, one hundred rods in breadth by the river, and running back south-southwest eightscore rods. Edmund and Nathan Littlefield and Cole had included in each of their grants ten acres of meadow land, "where it can be found undisposed of." These grants were not laid out until May, 1681.

On the ninth of April, 1681, the above-named Edmund<sup>1</sup> and his brother Joseph obtained from the town of Cape Porpus a grant of one hundred acres of upland on the northeast side of Kennebunk River, "as near as may be to the upper falls, near the Indian Planting Ground . . . . for the purpose of building mills," etc.<sup>2</sup> Edmund and his copartners, by this grant, obtained all the necessary facilities for building a dam, etc.

A saw-mill was erected on the western side of these falls in 1681-82, of which, it appears, Edmund, Joseph, Nathan and Samuel

<sup>1</sup> Edmund and Joseph were sons of Francis Littlefield, Sr., and of course grandsons of the pioneer Edmund.

<sup>2</sup> *Bradbury*. He further states that these grantees "agreed to build a grist-mill upon condition that there should not be another built in town," to which stipulation Cape Porpus assented, and that they built mills "higher up the river." If so, the site of "Nason's Mills" (now Charles H. Walker's) must have been then improved, probably by Joseph and Edmund.

were joint proprietors. This mill stood very near the spot now occupied by "Bartlett's Mills." Other buildings, for the accommodation of the workmen, cattle, etc., must have been put up, at the same time, in the immediate vicinity, but they were undoubtedly rude structures. Our information respecting this first improvement of the water-power on the Kennebunk River is extremely meager. The larger part of the boards sawn there were rafted down the river and thence shipped for a market, and most of the supplies for the employees, etc., were probably received at the same point, although it is quite probable that some part of the lumber manufactured at these mills was carted to the landing on the Mousam and thence shipped, and that a portion of their supplies was landed there. These mills and all adjacent buildings were burned by the Indians near the commencement of the war known as King William's (August 13, 1688-January 7, 1699). The settlers took refuge in the nearest garrison houses, and for several years thereafter no attempt was made to till the earth or improve the water-power within our present village boundaries.

While the operations narrated in the foregoing paragraph were in progress, a mill was erected on Little River, and enterprising citizens were taking initiatory steps toward the improvement of the water-power at the Great Falls on the Mousam. On the sixth of December, 1681, the town granted to William Frost one hundred acres of upland, "being next to Abraham Tilton's land, near the Little River going to Mousam," and on the ninth of the following May a grant was made to William Frost and Jonathan Hammond of one hundred acres of land as near as may be to Little River Great Falls, on the west side of the river, and two acres on the east side, "convenient to the said falls for the fastening of dam, boom or mill," with liberty "to build a saw-mill or mills"; for this privilege they were to pay to the town annually five pounds in merchantable boards, delivered at a convenient landing-place, at current prices, and "to saw all such white pine logs to the halves . . . that good men settled in the town shall seasonably bring to the mill . . . so far as the saw-mill is capable." This grant was laid out, beginning forty-five rods from the land that was formerly John Wells's, at or near the path that goes to Mousam.

Joseph Littlefield was admitted as a joint partner in this grant and the three proprietors proceeded at once to build a saw-mill, which was completed in 1683. In September, 1685, Frost sold to Lewis

Allen the one hundred acres of upland granted to him in 1681, and all his interest (one-third) in this mill, upland and privilege, for sixty-two pounds. On the "second day of December and in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James the second of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith," etc. (1685), Hammond and Littlefield sold to Nicholas Cole, for four pounds and fifteen shillings, two-thirds of one hundred acres above the saw-mill (excepting three acres set apart for the owners of the mill).

July 23, 1683. The town granted to James Ross one hundred acres of upland, "situated and being on the northeast side of the river now known and called by the name of Little River, near William Frost's grant near the Great Falls, . . . which is below the saw-mill which is now building upon the said river." Ross admitted Joseph Littlefield as a "joint partner" in the grant of land, and they proceeded to erect a saw-mill which was completed in January 1684.

May 14, 1692. The town granted to John Wheelwright, Joseph Taylor and Thomas Cole, liberty to build one or two saw-mills upon Mousam Great Falls, with liberty to cut timber on the Commons "suitable for boards and other occasions," with liberty to build, set and fasten dam or dams, boom or booms to said mill or mills. These falls were known in the early history of the town as "Fluellen's Falls." Of this grant Wheelwright was proprietor of one-half part and Taylor and Cole of one-quarter part each. The grantees built a saw-mill before the close of the century. We have no details concerning it. Our authority is the fact that in 1701 the selectmen of Wells and a committee of the proprietors of Coxhall ran the line between Coxhall and Wells and described it as follows: "begin at the head of a gully at a white oak tree, at the upper corner of the gully above the Great Falls where the mill now stands, and from said river," etc.

The tract of land now embraced within the bounds of the town of Lyman was sold, "before the inhabitants had become subject to Massachusetts" (1653), by Sosowen, an Indian sagamore of Saco, to John Sanders (the first settler in Kennebunk, but then a resident in Cape Porpus), Peter Turbat and John Bush, also of Cape Porpus, which was described as "Coxhall, now called Swanfield, lying beyond Wells," and as being four miles square.<sup>1</sup> This sale was subsequently confirmed by Sosowen's son, Fluellen Sumptimus, also of

<sup>1</sup>Bradbury.



Saco. Although the Great Falls and a large strip of territory adjoining them were not included in this conveyance and were never claimed by the grantees, the transient settlers in the vicinity probably regarded it—in the then imperfect knowledge of titles and bounds—as within Fluellen's claim; hence the name given them. Sanders and his two associates sold this tract to Harlackinden Symonds (whose name appears in our early records as a large landowner in Wells, on both sides of the Mousam), by whom it was deeded in 1661 to his father, Samuel Symonds, of Ipswich, Mass. The latter, in 1668, conveyed his title to Roger Haskins and thirty-five others, by which company and the heirs of its members it was held, chiefly, for nearly a century before the settlers upon the territory comprised within the limits of Coxhall (Lyman) were sufficiently numerous to entitle them to the designation of a hamlet. It was not incorporated until 1780, and then under the name of Coxhall.

To return to Mousam Great Falls. Positive evidence we have not, nor can such ever be obtained, to support the conjecture that the land in the vicinity of these falls and of Alewife Brook was improved many years before the date of the grant to Wheelwright and others (1692), but it is believed that the records of Wells, imperfect as they are, supply facts and suggestive references and hints that abundantly sustain this idea, viz.: in the now obsolete names given to certain brooks and other localities, the meanings of which are not now understood, and the names of the originators of which are unrecorded, unknown and untraceable. That these names were attached to these localities, many years before the permanent settlement of Wells, is apparent from the fact that they appear in the earliest conveyances made thereafter. One can hardly resist the conclusion, after a careful examination of the ancient records, that there were many temporary settlers, whites, on the interior portion of our territory at a very early date, nearly contemporary with the first known settlers on the coast. All the immigrants who landed at Saco, under Vines's management of affairs, from 1616 to 1625, it may safely be assumed, did not make Saco or its neighborhood a permanent abiding place. Doubtless there were among them uneasy and idle persons who preferred a nomadic life, with its semi-barbaric habits and pleasures, to the steady application required for the occupant of a fixed habitation, obtaining a livelihood by the monotonous routine of a farmer's or a fisherman's vocation; nor is it a visionary supposition that these persons in their wanderings should have visited that portion of our territory now known as the Alewives

and the Plains, as well as the region roundabout (only some ten or twelve miles from their landing-place), and here found a spot of earth precisely adapted to their wishes. No more inviting situation could have been selected for the hunter or trapper. The forest and the vicinity of the rivers and brooks abounded with game and the streams with fish; deer, moose and all the smaller wild animals usually found in northern woods; otter, muskrat and beaver on the banks of streams. Beavers, especially, were here in extraordinarily large numbers. Beaver dams were found in every direction beside all the rivers and their tributaries, so that, for many years after our territory had become well settled, they were prominent and frequent bound-marks for the land surveyors, and we may add, in passing, that even at this day vestiges of them are by no means rare. The salmon and numerous other fishes tenanted the streams, and birds in countless variety built their nests in the trees and shrubs as well as on the ground. The scenery—forest, meadow and water—was delightful. For sport or for reverie, for camp comforts and camp stories, for dozing life's days away in dreamy listlessness, what location could be more desirable? That rude cabins and more fragile tents, occupied by thoughtless and improvident white men, stood in the vicinity of these falls before John Sanders reared his humble dwelling near Hart's Beach, there is good ground for belief.

The now unmeaning and obsolete names of brooks and other localities, of which we have previously spoken, were retained a number of years by our earliest known settlers, and were even used occasionally in descriptions of boundaries. The natural inference is that the interior portion of the town was temporarily occupied by white men several years anterior to the commencement of its written history, and that those whom we have regarded as pioneers in its occupancy possessed traditionary evidence, at least, of this fact.

In 1691—a year before the grant to Wheelwright and others—reference is made, in a vote passed at a town meeting in Wells, “to the path which now is from Mousam Mills to Coxhall line.” A saw-mill was built at Great Falls about 1700. It is difficult to imagine where the lumber manufactured at this mill found a market, as the home demand must have been quite limited, unless it was drawn over this “path” to Mousam Landing and shipped thence.

May 14, 1694. The town granted to David Littlefield, Samuel Hatch and William Frost, fifty acres of upland, at the Little River at Maryland, beginning about halfway between the two falls on the

river, just below the meadow joining Francis Littlefield's land, together with the upper falls next to said meadow, with liberty to build a saw-mill and to cut timber on the commons and privilege for a highway to transport their boards.

March 27, 1695. The town granted to Samuel Wheelwright, Jonathan Hammond, Eliab Littlefield and John Butland, liberty to build a saw-mill at the Little River, next below the falls granted to David Littlefield and others (1694), together with two hundred acres of land lying on the side of the river, near the falls, with customary privileges.

November 22, 1699. The town granted to Lieut. Joseph Storer "the lower salt water falls at Kennebunk River, for the building of a saw-mill or mills, with the usual privilege of cutting timber, and also one hundred acres of land joining to said falls." The land was laid out December 28, 1699, as follows:—"beginning at a hemlock tree, about two rods below the falls, on the side of the hill or bank, running from the river to the west by west line and 120 rods in breadth up the river until it runs to the northwest side of a creek, at the river, and runs back on a S. W. by W. line until the 100 acres be completed."

November 22, 1699. A grant was made to Nicholas Cole of one hundred acres of land at Kennebunk River, above Storer's land, leaving four rods for a highway and landing-place next to Storer's land—"beginning at a highway joining to Joseph Storer's land, running S. W. by W. to a marked tree on N. W. side of the river and so runs in breadth up the river 120 rods to a marked tree, etc., until the 100 acres be completed."

The following list, it is believed, comprises all the town grants and transfers by grantees, not noticed in the preceding pages, from 1642 to 1700. Undoubtedly there were others which were not recorded, but we rarely find reference to such within our territorial limits. The grants, etc., on both sides of Little River have been given in order that a just idea may be obtained of the business movements in our immediate vicinity in the years now long gone by. A synopsis of the descriptive portion of grants is frequently given, which will enable the curious to locate the sites of the mills spoken of, as well as the tracts of land that were, at the time, by residents and visitors, considered most desirable for occupancy or speculation, and perhaps enable them to trace the ownership of these estates up to the present time.



## ON OR NEAR MOUSAM RIVER.

1675, May 4. Grants of one hundred acres of upland and ten of marsh, to John Bates, on the west side of Capeporpus River.

1675, May 4. To Samuel Storer, one hundred acres of upland and ten of marsh, on the west side of the river. No record of the laying out of this grant.

1683, May 23. To Joseph Taylor, of Wells, one hundred acres "near the head of the town."

1684, August 25. To Benjamin Curtis, one hundred acres on western side of. (No record of the laying out of this grant.)

1685, May 25. To Ralph Andrews, at Mousam, next to Benjamin Curtis's grant.

1693, December 23. To Thomas Cole, one hundred acres of upland and ten of marsh, near the head of the town.

1699, March 20. To Joseph Taylor, ten acres of meadow or marsh joining to or near. It has generally been supposed that this lot was laid out at Cat Mousam, in the rear of the fields now held by George T. Jones and the heir of the late Elisha Mitchell. This is incorrect. The lot was laid out April 28, 1701, as follows:—"ten acres of marsh or meadow land on the western side of Mousam River, about a mile below the head of the flowing of the salt water, lying in two several parts, the upper piece, containing three acres, being a certain cove or piece of marsh joining the said river and bounded with the upland on the other side and at each end where the upland runs in points to said river, a brook running down out of the woods through said marsh,—the lower piece beginning at a marked tree and to run on the south end of a small pond in the marsh, and so runs to a stake by the river's side and runs to the mouth of a large creek," etc.

## ON OR NEAR KENNEBUNK RIVER.

1681, April 27. Grant to Gilbert Endicott, sixty acres of upland on west side of the river, being part of three hundred acres granted Eleazer Hathorne, August 14, 1679. Forfeited to the town.

1684, June 9. Nathan Littlefield conveys to William Taylor the lot of land near Kennebunk River Falls and next below Nicholas Cole, Junior's land, which was granted to said Littlefield March 16, 1680,—eightyscore rods in breadth and running back one hundred rods.

1685, May 25. To William Taylor, about six acres "whitch are some sartayne poynts of land running into the said Taylor's marsh, which he bought of John Butland, joyneing to Kennebunk River."

1694, March 14. Grant to James Wakefield of one hundred acres of upland at Kennebunk River, "beginning at William Taylor's land," etc. This grant was forfeited, but renewed November 22, 1699. Laid out October 3, 1702, as follows: "Beginning at Wm. Taylor's land, by said river, and so to run down the river 160 poles and to run back from the river 100 poles on a S. W. line, butting on several points of lowland and meadow by the river side belonging to said Taylor."

1694, April 10. To Joseph Crediford, one hundred acres, adjoining Wakefield's grant, as above.

1700, March 18. To Samuel Hill, one hundred acres, at Kennebunk River, next unto and above Nicholas Cole's land, "only leaving four poles for a highway from there backwards, 80 poles in breadth up the river's side and back on the same line as the other lots." (Storer's and Cole's.)

1713. Town grants to Stephen Harding forty acres at the Wood Neck, joining his own land, twenty rods in breadth by the sea, and so to run up by his own land, etc. Twenty-eight acres of this grant were laid out for John Webber in 1748, beginning at north corner of Joseph Wormwood's land and running by east, north and west courses to Colonel Storer's land, it being part of the forty acres that were laid out upon Butland's Patten land.

1717. Samuel Littlefield sold to Stephen Harding thirty acres, beginning at Wood Neck, bounded on the west by said Harding's land, running one hundred rods west by the sea to the west end of the sands on the east end of Great Hill, and so up into the woods eight rods.

The narrow strip of land, named by the earliest settlers "Wood Neck," commenced at the mouth of Kennebunk River, extended up river a short distance—perhaps a mile—and in breadth to the second sands. It was heavily wooded, especially on the river's bank, as the stumps now seen at low water in the vicinity of the western pier satisfactorily attest. Why called "Neck?" Undoubtedly the ocean has slowly been making inroads on our coast for centuries, and it is reasonable to suppose that this strip had not, in their day, succumbed to the action of the waves. The contour of the coast has been wonderfully changed in the centuries long past, as well as in the past century;—of this there is abundant evidence. When and where did this wearing away commence, and when and where will it end?

## ON OR NEAR LITTLE RIVER.

1670, June 24. To John Gooch, fifty acres lying between the branches of Little River. (This grant was subsequently laid out for John Wells, of Boston.)

1679, August 14. To Elizabeth Look, one hundred acres at the three mile brook.

1681, February 27. Thomas Littlefield sold to Joseph Littlefield one-fourth part of "my saw-mill and dam and all the appurtenances belonging to her, which is now standing upon the river or brook next to the dwelling-house of said Joseph."

1683, July 23. To John Woodin, one hundred acres of upland and ten of marsh.

1684, April 29. To Nicholas Morey, one hundred acres, on northeast side, above John Woodin's land. To Thomas Cousens, one hundred acres, below William Frost's land;—June 2. To John Barrett, Jr., one hundred acres "at the eastard of, joining to Cousens' grant";—July 3. Eighty acres on northeast side of, above the saw-mill and adjoining land (one hundred acres) granted to Thomas Cole, April 29, 1684, and twenty acres "beginning at the path going to Mousam and to run northwest by William Frost's land till it comes to a little hill opposite against the saw-mill."

1685, September 16. "George Chambers (now of Wells)" sold to Benjamin Curtis, for three pounds, one hundred acres lying on the northeast side of, "beginning a little above the saw-mill which is now built upon said river."

1686, April 29. To Nicholas Cole, Jr., one hundred acres, bounded on northwest by John Woodin's land and by town's highway, etc.

1688, May 21. Grant to William Frost, Senior, of fifty acres at the Little River, "below the path that goes to Mousam on the north side of the northeast branch of said river"; and to William Frost, Junior, fifty acres adjoining the above described lot.

1693, March 14. To Nathaniel Clark, fifty acres "lying and being between the two branches of the eastwardmost Little River."

1694, April 10. To Jeremiah Storer, one hundred acres on the north side of the north branch of, beginning one hundred rods below the path going to Mousam.

1701, March 17. Grant to William Sayer, Nicholas Cole, Jere. Storer and Thomas Wells, of liberty to build a saw-mill at a falls on, about a mile below the mill belonging to Jona. Hammond and



others, with the usual privileges of cutting timber, etc.;—April 28. Laid out for Joseph Taylor one hundred acres, “between the branches of, above the path going from the Town towards Mousam, and butting upon said path fifty rods in breadth, a little brook or spring of water running about the middle of the land.”

1702, April 24. Laid out for Joseph Sayer and Thomas Wells, “ten acres to each of them of marsh or swamp land, about a mile from the saw-mill that now stands on Little River, and lying on a small brook known as the northern branch of said river, beginning at a Beaver dam and an Elm,” etc.;—October 17. Laid out for Nicholas Cole a lot of land, “beginning at the edge of, at the falls S. E. line down to Mousam path.”

1714, March 18. Grant to Nathaniel Clark of fifty acres adjoining his own land and east side of, thirty rods wide by the river.

1715, March 23. Grant to John Littlefield, one hundred acres on, at the head of the land that was his father's.

1717, October 13. Laid out for Ichabod Cousens, under grant to his father, Thomas Cousens, one hundred acres on southwest side of, bounded by Mousam path, Nicholas Cole, etc., etc.

## CHAPTER VI.

### FROM 1700 TO 1750—THE CONDITION OF THE TERRITORY—PROPOSED CESSION OF A PART OF IT TO COXHALL—THE LARRABEES— LARRABEE VILLAGE.

Our territory, at the commencement of the seventeenth century, had for twelve years been included in the plantation, and for nearly fifty years had formed the eastern portion of the incorporated town of Wells. Small progress had been made in the work of its settlement. Mills had been erected within its borders, but these mostly had fallen a prey to Indian lawlessness, and with them the rude structures that had been built in the vicinity of each for the accommodation and comfort of men and cattle employed in its operations. The forest remained nearly unbroken; the grasses on some of the meadows had been gathered a few times, and here and there a small piece of land had been tilled and vegetables grown thereon; but very little attention had been given to the cultivation of the soil, if we except the acres held by the two residents at the seashore, who with their families aggregated some fifteen or twenty persons, and who, it is fair to presume, had made respectable progress in bringing their respective home-lots to a farm-resembling condition. The Sayword mill property was still under a cloud; the Indian troubles afforded sufficient excuse for the non-fulfillment of the engagements of the grantees, so that their grants could not fairly be forfeited and revert to the town, and thus, for nearly a quarter of a century, the site of the present village remained an undisturbed wilderness. Still, much had been done to insure the prospective security and prosperity of the embryo town. The uncertainty that had existed respecting the validity of land titles, occasioned by the pretensions of Rigby's agent, had been removed, the incorporation of the town of Wells and the jurisdiction over the Province by Massachusetts were a "tower of strength" to all the inhabitants, inasmuch as they could well feel assured that they were under the protecting care of a government willing and able to render them

needed aid when in danger from the dreaded foe, and surely they must have "breathed easier" when the controversy in regard to the dividing line between Cape Porpus and Wells had been adjusted.

The second Indian war had closed. Although the settlers had lost heavily, not only by the destructive ravages of the enemy, but by the paralyzing influence of the protracted and dreadful war upon every industrial pursuit, still the return of peace resuscitated at once their long dormant business energies. Mills that had been spared<sup>1</sup> were set in motion, the Great Falls Company had completed its mill, and Storer in good earnest set about improving the lower mill site on the Kennebunk.

Grants that had been unused and unrecorded for many years were brought forward, renewed and located. Little River and its vicinity, during the two last decades, had been attracting more attention from settlers, mill-men and speculators than any other part of the town, but now (1700-1750) the privileges and lands on and between the Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers were in great request; notwithstanding that, during the three Indian wars extending through periods aggregating eighteen years of the half-century under consideration, the inhabitants were constantly in danger and the procuring of a scanty sustenance was all that could be hoped for.

Kennebunk, in these fifty years, attained a name<sup>2</sup> and a standing in respect to population and business interests that caused it to be included among the thriving and well-established communities in the Province;—a position it has continued to maintain up to the present time, although not without occasionally experiencing severe depressions, such as those produced by the two wars with a foreign power, inadequate returns for labor in consequence of unfavorable seasons, and the many comparatively inconsiderable losses and mishaps to which all municipalities are subject and which it is hardly possible to avoid.

<sup>1</sup>It was voted, at a town meeting held February 11, 1700, to abate the rents of "the two mills at Mereland, and the lower mill standing on the same river, in consideration of their being hindered by reason of the war."

<sup>2</sup>The grant of land, with the mill privileges, laid out for the Littlefields and Cole in 1680-81, and the grant of land and mill privilege to Storer in 1699, on the Kennebunk River, were referred to in the old settlement as the "Kennebunk grants." "I am going," or "I have been, over to the Kennebunk grants," was the common expression of persons who visited this section during the building and operation of the mills first erected on these privileges respectively. When the number of grants and settlers had considerably increased in other parts of the township, this designation was no longer strictly accurate, and from 1700 to 1714 the word "grants" fell into disuse, and the territory between our principal rivers was spoken of as Kennebunk.



That the forefathers of the town did not place a very high estimate on their land heritage is very clearly shown on our old records. It appears that the proprietors of Coxhall—a large and for the time wealthy company—were desirous of obtaining a liberal slice from our contiguous territory, as a gift, offering as an inducement to the good people of Wells the advantages that they might, in the future, derive from the settlement of a few families on the land. The argument seems to have been,—“If you will cede to us this strip of land, we will endeavor to induce persons to settle there, receiving from them, of course for our special benefit, the proceeds of all sales of land, of all taxes, etc., that may be paid by them, and you will get, as compensation, all the benefits that may accrue to you from those who may thus take up their abode in your neighborhood, on what is really now your own land, but which will have become our property and be within our jurisdiction.” The argument was not entirely destitute of the quality of speciousness, nor of unworthy consideration, but it certainly is inconceivable how the citizens of Wells, after opportunity for careful consideration of the subject, could have regarded with favor a proposition so entirely one-sided, so perfectly absurd, and so destitute of ground for reasonable hope of any prospective advantage to the grantor, and could have been induced to make the proposal of which we give a summary in the following paragraph. Perhaps there were those among the Coxhall proprietors who had read *Æsop's Fables*, while the dwellers in Wells had not met with a copy of that work.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the common and undivided lands in Wells, held May 20, 1717, a vote was adopted which, after reciting the fact that the town on the eighth of June, 1691, had granted to the owners of Coxhall a mile of land, the situation of which is described, on certain conditions which had not been performed, goes on to say: “We, being willing to encourage the settlement of said tract of land called Coxhall, have, upon the conditions herein specified, granted all our right, title and interest to a tract of land at the head of our township, lying between Mousam River and Kennebunk River, beginning a quarter of a mile northeast of the white oak tree which is at the head and at the upper corner of a gully, which is the bounds agreed upon between the township of Wells and Coxhall, and to run from said place at a quarter of a mile distance as aforesaid, from said tree upon a southeast line a mile, unless said line should cross the path which now is from

Mousam mill, and if it comes to said path it is to be bounded thereby till the mile is completed, and from thence to run on a north-east line toward, but not to come within half a mile of Kennebunk River, from whence to run northwest until it meets the bounds of Coxhall;—excepting, any former grants that may happen to lay on said tract; also excepting the privilege of falls and stream and of erecting dam or dams for flowing water for the benefit of mill or mills, sufficient room to lay logs and boards convenient thereto; and, also way for bringing logs to and transporting boards from any mill or mills that may be built on Alewife Brook (in case it falls within this grant), and, also, excepting the privilege of cutting timber upon said land, which is hereby reserved to the proprietors of the town of Wells, or any of them, and upon the further consideration that the proprietors of Coxhall settle four families within two years on said land, or two families in each year next after the two years abovesaid, and annually after that rate till there shall be as many families settled upon said granted land as there contains hundreds of acres on said grant—if inhabitants should hereafter build mills, dams, or booms on Mousam River, a convenient passage-way shall be left for logs to be transported down the river to the mill or mills that have been or shall be built on said river in the township of Wells. Non-compliance with any or all of these conditions renders this grant void.” These conditions were not complied with and the grant, consequently, was “null, void and of no effect.” The document is interesting, however, inasmuch as we learn therefrom the proposed cession of a portion of our territory, the conditions on which it was to be made, and the estimation in which the water privileges at the Great Falls and on Alewife Brook were held by those who were prominent in conducting the affairs of the town nearly two centuries ago.

Reference is made in an instrument dated March 6, 1702, to a “deed of sale from John Butland, now deceased, unto James Littlefield,<sup>1</sup> now deceased, father-in-law to Stephen Harding,<sup>2</sup> of that tract of land formerly granted by Mr. Henry Boad and Mr. Edward Rushworth to John Butland.” The date of this grant is not given, but it must have been prior to 1653. It was no doubt the same tract previously granted to George Butland. It was now (1702) laid out to Stephen Harding, and bounded: “beginning at the mouth of

<sup>1</sup> James Littlefield was the son of Francis Littlefield, Sr., and was born October 2, 1657.

<sup>2</sup> Harding married Abigail, daughter of James Littlefield, July 28, 1701.

Kennebunk River, running by the seashore on a west line one mile to the western end of the second sands or beach, and so up into the woods, due north, three hundred poles, and on the east side joins on said river, heading at the mouth of a Cove, next below the lower narrows, being three hundred poles up the river from the foot line, containing six hundred acres." After having occupied this estate thirty years or more, Butland sold it to Littlefield, about 1689, and removed to the village in Wells. This transfer was made during what is termed King William's War (1688 to 1699), when the Indians were on the "war path."

It is not supposed that Littlefield moved his family to a situation so isolated and exposed as was his new purchase, at a time when Indian atrocities were so frequent, and when there were constant apprehensions of an incursion by the wily and merciless foe. He was killed in 1690 while at or on his way to or from this property. A letter from Roger Hill, of Biddeford, who was then stationed at the garrison in Wells, under date of "Wells, May 7, 1690," says: "The Indians killed Goodman Frost and James Littlefield, and carried away Nathaniel Frost, and burned several houses here." This letter was addressed to his wife, "in care of Capt. John Hill,<sup>1</sup> at Fort Mary, Saco," and it is believed furnishes the only evidence we have concerning Littlefield's death, the carrying away of Frost, or the burning of the houses. The letter gives no details, but of the entire credibility of its statements there can be no doubt.

We find, however, that on the eighteenth of March, 1690, a party of French and Indians, under the command of Hertel de Rouville and Whoop Hood, a sachem, made an attack on Berwick, and killed about thirty of its inhabitants, besides making prisoners of fully fifty more, who were carried to Canada. They were pursued by one hundred and forty of our people, but with poor success; a few were killed on both sides; night came on and the pursuit was abandoned, the bloodthirsty invaders escaping with their prisoners and booty.

<sup>1</sup> Capt. John Hill was quite a prominent actor in the affairs of Wells during that dark period in its history, from the commencement to the close of "King William's War." He was commissioned by Deputy Governor Danforth, of Massachusetts, in 1689, as ensign of a military company, and was given, very shortly after receiving his commission, the command of twenty soldiers quartered at Saco. We quote from the "Shores of Saco Bay" (from which we derive the facts stated in this note): "At Wells he distinguished himself in an engagement with the French and Indians and in consideration of heroic conduct was promoted to Lieutenant and subsequently to Captain, and was given the command of His Majesty's Forces at Fort Mary, Saco." [The engagement here spoken of—which must have occurred in the autumn of 1689, or early in the spring of 1690—is not mentioned on the Wells records, nor is it known that any document or tradition



There was a large quantity of snow on the ground at the time and as our people were destitute of snowshoes it was found impossible to overtake the retreating foe. A portion of these invaders were lurking in this vicinity several weeks. It is safe to say that it was by this party, or members of it, that Littlefield and Frost were murdered and the other atrocities mentioned in Roger Hill's letter committed. It is remarkable that the memory of so important an occurrence should not have been preserved by the descendants of the sufferers, either through written description or tradition.

Hertel, on his return, early in May, met a large body of French and Indians bound on an expedition for the destruction of Falmouth, which he reinforced with a part of his own men. This expedition to Falmouth resulted in the destruction of that town. The cruelties perpetrated by the assailants upon the inhabitants were horrid beyond description. The shocking barbarities then and there committed have few parallels in the history of the French and Indian wars. It was during this savage assault that the French commander, Castine, was guilty of his noted perfidy and perjury.

#### THE LARRABEE SETTLEMENT.

1713, March 26. The town granted to William Larrabee, Senior, one hundred acres of upland on the northeast side of Mousam

exists in the town descriptive of or alluding to it. The author states that many letters, addressed to Captain Hill, at Fort Mary, "were found fifty years ago, in the attic of a house in South Berwick, in an old chest that had not been opened for seventy years. These papers established many historical facts," etc.] In 1794 Captain Hill married Mary, daughter of Maj. Charles Frost, whose garrison was at Kittery. Major Frost, in a letter to his son-in-law Hill, under date of Wells, August 13, 1696, vividly portrays the distressing situation of the early settlers at that time. He writes: "I am now at Wells, with twenty horse, intending to come over to you, but hearing of several guns about your parts, I have sent over three men to see how it is with you. I have an order . . . to assist you in drawing off and to draw off and bring away what can be transported by land, and to hide the rest in the ground with the guns; but our towns are so weak for the want of men that if the enemy be about you we fear we are too weak to bring you off." He adds a postscript: "Tis said six Indians have been here to-day."

Capt. John Hill was a son of Roger Hill, of Biddeford (who married Mary Cross, of Wells, in 1658), and was a brother to Joseph Hill, a prominent citizen of Wells, who died in 1748. He was one of the signers of an address to the Governor and Council of Massachusetts, dated Wells, July 21, 1691, asking that men be sent there, with provisions and ammunition, for the strengthening of the town, which was in a distressed condition. On the 28th of September following, Captain Hill and Capt. John Littlefield, who are spoken of as "our loving friends," were selected to present the petition of several of the inhabitants of Wells to the Massachusetts authorities for immediate aid. At this time Captain Hill was stationed at Fort Mary, in Saco, with thirty-eight soldiers under his command, but these could not be safely removed from their quarters. It appears that he was frequently in Wells and was indefatigable in his efforts to provide men, arms and ammunition for the defense of the town.

River, which was laid out on the twenty-seventh of the following October, "80 rods in breadth by the river, the northwest side begins at the river, by a great gully running from the river northeast and so to run back from the river till the 100 acres are completed," and on the same day a grant of 100 acres was laid out to William Larrabee, Junior, joining his father, William Larrabee, "80 poles in breadth by the river and running on a northeast point back from the river till the 100 acres be completed."

We have, in the foregoing grants, the initiatory step in the formation of the "Larrabee Village," the first combination within our borders for mutual protection, the site of the first blockhouse, and the first approximation to a village. This was an important position, judiciously chosen and heroically maintained. The William Larrabee, Junior, to whom the second grant was made, is undoubtedly the William Larrabee of Bourne's History; the senior Larrabee is not mentioned there, but it is stated that William Larrabee came to Wells in 1676, having been driven from North Yarmouth by the Indian troubles, and further, that he was married in 1706. If this is correct, he must have resided in Wells thirty years before he was married and thirty-eight years before he built his house near the Mousam River. This, doubtless, is an error.

Chroniclers of the events of those far-off times inform us that "Lt. Larrabee with thirty praying Indians" was ordered by the Massachusetts authorities to scout about the Saco River, and farther east if it should be judged necessary. He succeeded in killing several Indians. It is to be regretted that our information respecting this expedition is so scant. Lt. Larrabee is undoubtedly the senior William<sup>1</sup> of our history, and when invested with the command of these Indians was an inhabitant of Wells. He was residing in Cape Porpoise in 1703. We make this statement on the authority of Bradbury, who says that Larrabee was there in 1703, when the town was depopulated by Indian murders and desertions. After their attack on Harding's, "the Indians crossed the river and killed the wife and three of the children of William Larrabee, who lived in the field near Butler's rocks, so-called. Larrabee himself was at work on the marsh near where the ropewalk now is, and, on perceiv-

<sup>1</sup>The senior Larrabee, according to Bradbury, married the widow of John Look,—he should have added senior. Elizabeth Look, the widow of the elder John, and the mother of the John of our history, married William Larrabee about 1681. Elizabeth obtained a grant of land, lying in the vicinity of Ogunquit River, from the town of Wells, in 1679. It is supposed William, junior, was married in 1706 or 1707.

ing two Indians running toward him, concealed himself in the bushes. After they had given up the search he crept toward his house and saw the Indians regaling themselves on the provisions they had taken therefrom, the dead bodies of his wife and two children lying near them." A third child breathed its last while he was looking at it. It would have been madness to attack them, and his only course was to seek Storer's garrison, which he reached in safety. He continued to reside in Wells thereafter until his death. It is said that he was the son of Stephen Larrabee, of what place is not stated (probably North Yarmouth), and that he was one of the petitioners to Charles II, in 1680, praying to be relieved from the heavy taxes imposed by the "Bostoners." The name on the petition is spelled Leatherbee.

Both William and his son must have resided west of Little River many years before obtaining the grants above named. William, Jr., erected his house in 1714, but there is no evidence that his father built a house on his grant or was a resident thereon. He must have been well advanced in years in 1714, and doubtless too infirm to engage in active service against the enemy. Edward Evans was in possession of the grant at one time; we think he did not build a house there, but took up his abode on the west side of the river.<sup>1</sup> The grant came into possession of Samuel Emmons, who built a dwelling-house thereon and resided there several years. He married Abigail Fletcher in 1737. Several sons and daughters were born to them, all of whom were married and became residents of different towns in the county, and, as a whole, were worthy men and women. The senior Emmons removed to Lyman; we think he is the ancestor of all of that name in York and Cumberland Counties. Emmons, we are told, was a rough but kind-hearted man and a good citizen.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>After the war (July, 1745,-October, 1749,) Evans moved across the river and lived near its western bank, back of the house formerly occupied by Enoch Bragdon, on land known as George W. Wallingford's pasture. He had three sons, Abner, William and John.

<sup>2</sup>A good story is told respecting Emmons: One fine summer morning he proposed to go fishing; his boat was old and leaky and his wife remonstrated against the movement, but he persisted. The day proved pleasant throughout and he caught a large quantity of fish. On his return he reached the vicinity of his home when it was high water; the boat, which during the sail up river had shown signs of weakness, began to fill and was gradually sinking. Emmons could not swim. His wife, who was on the lookout, discovered his danger and rushing to the water's edge cried out, with uplifted arms, "O Lord, save him," "Kind God, do save him," "God of mercy, save him." Emmons, who was standing in the boat, shouted to his wife, "Stop calling on the Lord, good woman, and halloo for Wormwood." Wormwood, who lived just below, on the west side of the river, had seen the perilous condition of Emmons when he passed by a few moments before and was



William Larrabee, Junior, was a hardy, courageous man and became the intrepid defender of the little hamlet that gradually grew up around him as well as of those, both townsmen and strangers, who fled to his domicile for safety. He was truly "the man for the hour," and it may well be questioned whether, without him, the settlement could have sustained itself against the savage foe through the three years' war, known as Lovewell's (June, 1722–December, 1725). He died in 1727. A copy of his will is given in the annexed note.<sup>1</sup> The date of the death of his father is not known.

Stephen Larrabee was the son of William, Jr., and is known in legend and in history as "Sergeant Larrabee." He inherited his father's qualities of strength and intrepidity, was distinguished for wise forethought and was in every way qualified for a cautious and successful leader; he planned deliberately and executed with undaunted firmness, and almost invariably with a prosperous issue.<sup>2</sup>

watching his progress. Hearing the outcry, he was soon in his wherry and alongside the sinking craft, which he succeeded in towing to the shore. We are told that at breakfast the next morning Emmons said to his wife: "Well, old lady, you was pretty well frightened last evening; you see it was better to rely on Wormwood than to stand there calling on the Lord." "But, Sam," was the response, "if I had not called on the Lord, Wormwood would not have been on the lookout and would not have saved you." Slowly and musingly, Emmons replied: "Well, well, good woman, perhaps you are right; I don't know; yes, yes, perhaps you are right."

<sup>1</sup>This the last will and testament of William Larraby:

First I comit my spirit to God that gave it and my body to the Earth to be decently buried. First, I Give my wellbeloved Son Stephen Larraby my dwelling and land which Contains one hundred Acres with all my marsh or meadow, my aforesaid son to pay all my Lawful Debts. I Give to my wife Kathrine Larraby the third part of my Estate. I give to my Eldest Daughter Bethiah Look Six pounds I Give to my Daughter Sarah Larraby one Cow and Calfe & Six pounds in money I Give to my Daughter Easter Larraby a heifer Two years old and Six pounds in money I give to my afores<sup>d</sup> Wife Twenty in money I give to my afores<sup>d</sup> Son all my right and Interest in North [Yarmouth] Also I Give to my Said Son the remainder of my Estate that is not Disposed of already. I do also appoint Said Son to be my Execut<sup>r</sup> also I do Will that my Son pay the Legacy<sup>s</sup> with [in] three years after Date hereof the money to be paid in Currant or Mowing land where I have Set to my hand and Seale this Twenty fifth day of Aprill one Thousand Seven hundred and Twenty & Seven 1727 William <sup>his</sup> X Larraby L S  
mark

Signed Sealed & Delivered

In psence of  
Ebenezer Emons  
<sup>his</sup>  
Thomas X Wormwood  
<sup>mark</sup> <sup>his</sup>  
Edward X Evans  
<sup>mark</sup>

I also give to my daughter Sarah Larraby forty acres of Land. I Give to my Daughter Easter Larraby forty acres of Land  
This was Interlined before Sin'd.

Probated, 8 Aug. 1727. Inventory returned 8 Aug. 1727, at £302:5:0, by Ebenezer Emmons, Thomas Wormwood and Edward Evans, appraisers.

<sup>2</sup>"He planned a grand fort at his house on the Mousam River," which, when completed, covered "an acre of ground. The walls were of large, square timber, about fourteen feet high." It was built in the form of a parallelogram, pointing southeast or down the river. Within the walls were five houses. That of Sergeant

He had been inured to hardship, well understood the Indian character, knew when and how to watch his movements, and could readily determine the best course by which to counteract his stratagems and treachery. About eighteen years of age at the close of Lovewell's war, he was fully prepared, twenty years later—at the commencement of the five years' or Spanish war—when in the full vigor of manhood, to act the heroic and noble part which he bore through that contest, earning for himself the unquestioned title of the preserver of the settlers between the Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers. He died previous to 1780, when about seventy years of age.

John Look obtained a town grant, March 18, 1714, of one hundred acres of upland and ten of marsh, forty rods in breadth by the Mousam River, joining the land of William Larrabee, Junior, leaving four rods next to said land for a highway.

Grant of one hundred acres (but when laid out only "60 acres could be found in that place"), March, 1716, to Thomas Wormwood, adjoining Look's land, forty rods in breadth, etc. ("allowing four rods for a highway"), also three acres of marsh, on the southwest side of the river, "between the marsh of Nath'l Clark and Joseph Taylor."

1717, July 5. Laid out, under town grant, for Capt. John Gilman, of Exeter, N. H., and Samuel Littlefield, of Wells, two hundred acres upland and fifty acres salt marsh. The foot line begins at a place called Clay Hill and so runs northeasterly, on both sides of said upland, one hundred and eighty rods to Thomas Wormwood's land, and all the salt marsh from Clay Hill, between the upland and Mousam River, to the upper side of the place called "Roundabout," forty rods above William Larrabee's dwelling-house. The upper half of land and marsh was to be Littlefield's and the lower half Gilman's. The latter was probably forfeited, as it was laid out for Joseph Hill and John Storer, December 10, 1727.

1716, May 10. Laid out for David Littlefield, eleven acres salt Larrabee was very large and stood in the center of the fort. In the north corner was the house of Edward Evans; in the east corner that of Ebenezer Bayridge. The other two, one being at the western and the other at the southern end, were occupied by Nathan Morrison and the soldiers which were stationed there under his command; and also by such persons as found refuge here from the neighborhood "in time of danger. . . . At the northeastern end of the garrison, just before the gate, was the house of Samuel and Anthony Littlefield," the same built by Larrabee in 1714. . . . "In this garrison, including the old Larrabee house outside, which was made an appendage and from which was direct access to the garrison, were frequently gathered all the inhabitants of Kennebunk, together with other persons (sometimes over two hundred) driven there by the exigencies of war, for the preservation of their lives."—*Bourne*.

marsh on the easterly side of Mousam River, "between the Great Hill and the Pine Point, near the wading place, with the island of thatch adjoining said marsh."

On the western side of the Mousam River, March 14, 1715. Grant to Rachel Taylor, fifty acres of upland, being a neck of land joining a parcel of marsh she is now in possession of (grant, 1699, to her husband, Joseph Taylor, deceased), abutting on the river "and bounded upon a brook upon the northerly side and so running betwixt the said two brooks, the breadth of the neck, about northwest, till the said fifty be completed, being on a line extending from brook to brook at the head of the said tract."

March 18, 1714. Grant to Joseph Storer, one hundred acres, near the old wading place. (This is believed to have been at "Emerson's Falls"; when Sayward's mills were built, necessity existed for a new wading place, which is supposed to have commenced just above the lower dam, and to have extended down river fifty or sixty rods; it is somewhat remarkable that no positive evidence on this point, documentary or traditional, can now be obtained.) This lot was forty rods in breadth by the river on the western side, running back until the grant was completed.

Same date, one hundred acres to Moses Littlefield, forty rods in breadth by the river on the westerly side, near the old wading place.

Same date, six hundred acres upland and sixty of marsh on the eastern side of Mousam River, to Caleb Littlefield, John Moore, Elisha Billeton, Isaac Nash, Caleb Littlefield, Junior, and Nicholas Garland, to each and every one of them one hundred acres of upland and ten acres of fresh meadow, where it can be found not previously granted, above Cousens' (Rankin's) creek, each lot forty rods in breadth by the river.



## CHAPTER VII.

1706-1750—WADLEIGH'S INDIAN DEED—GREAT FALLS AND VILLAGE GRANTS AND MILLS—MAJOR PHILLIPS' GRANT—KENNEBUNK MILLS—THE KIMBALL FAMILY—PEABODY FAMILY.

As stated on a preceding page, John Wadleigh, then a resident in Wells, purchased of Sagamore Thomas Chabinocke, of Nampscocoke, which, be its meaning what it may, appears to have been the Indian name of the territory embraced in his deed or conveyance, "bounded between Nogimcoth [Negunquit] and Kennebunk, and up as high as Capeopus falls" [Mousam Great Falls]. This purchase was made October 18, 1649, and on the last day of the following March, Wadleigh, according to the record, took "quiet and peaceable possession of the premises." We have no further particulars. Unless it was understood by the people of Wells that Wadleigh was acting as their agent, and that this transference was in their behalf and for their benefit, for the purpose of extinguishing the Indian title to their plantation, it is difficult to imagine it possible that they would have tamely witnessed these proceedings without protest or any other movement opposed to the action. It might not have been an open transaction. There is certainly something about the affair that, at this day, is quite incomprehensible. Wadleigh, probably, disposed of one-half of his interest, under the Indian deed, to his son Robert, inasmuch as John and Robert, in 1659, sold to Daniel Epps, of Salem, and Simon Epps, of Ipswich, the tract of land lying between the Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers, from the sea wall to Coxhall line. Fifty-six years after the date of their deed the grantees claimed possession of the land therein described. As it may well be supposed, this demand occasioned no little excitement on the part of the inhabitants of Wells, by whom it was indignantly rejected. The Epps threatened prosecution; a town meeting was held, at which it was voted to resist the claim, and a committee was appointed to carry this vote into effect. Capt. John Wadleigh, the son of Robert and the grandson of the John who obtained the deed

from the Indians, supported the pretensions of the Eppses, and presented a further claim — founded on a deed of gift by his father to him — to certain lots of land in the town, lying west of Little River. After the amount of bluster usually employed by the contestants in such cases (especially where each party regards its own position of doubtful tenability) had been expended, a compromise was effected, by which it was agreed that the town of Wells should give to the Eppses one mile square of land in consideration of a quitclaim of all their right, title and interest in and to the territory in controversy, and to Capt. John Wadleigh two hundred acres for a similar quitclaim to all lots or parcels of land described in the deed to him from his father.

In reviewing this transaction one can hardly resist the conclusion that it was not strictly in accordance with fair dealing, that Wadleigh had acted as agent for the plantation in the purchase from the Indian sagamore, that the authorities of the plantation had neglected to obtain and record the necessary evidence of this fact, that Wadleigh had sufficient shrewdness to see that this omission might, if he was so disposed, be made pecuniarily advantageous to him at a future day, when testimony in proof of the facts in the case would not be attainable by the town, and that the Eppses understood the precise condition of things when they took their deed (else why the delay in making known and urging their claim). Appearances certainly indicate a pronounced case of "sharp practice" on the one part, and of necessity for yielding, chargeable to the carelessness or ignorance of their predecessors, on the part of the town authorities. At this late day, and destitute of positive evidence bearing on the case, it is impossible to do more than state the facts as they appear on the record and leave it to each reader to judge for himself.

Our coveted strip of territory was now free from all outside incumbrances. Cleaves had failed in his attempt to grasp it; Capeporpus had seen its pretensions set aside as unworthy consideration, and the Eppses and Wadleigh had been "bought off" at a low rate, estimating the lands granted at the then prevailing prices. Residents could look upon their acres or carry on their business enterprises with a feeling of security unknown to them at any previous period, and persons seeking eligible situations as farmers, mill-men or for employments peculiarly adapted to the seashore could plant themselves here without fear of molestation, except from the common foe.

In accordance with the arrangement between the town and the claimants under the Indian deed, the town, on the third day of October, 1720, granted to the Eppses "a certain tract of land containing one mile square, or the quantity of a mile square, between the rivers of Mousam and Kennebunk," etc., and to Capt. John Wadleigh, of Salisbury, two hundred acres of land adjoining that granted to the Eppses. The first-named grant was laid out to Capt. John Storer, on the eighteenth of June, 1731, viz., a tract beginning at the mile spring, so-called, thence northwest up the Mousam River three hundred and twenty rods, thence northeast from said river two hundred and eighty rods, thence southeast three hundred and twenty rods, thence southwest two hundred and eighty rods to said mile spring; also laid out eighty acres, bounded southwesterly by Mousam River, northwesterly by land of Joseph Hill and John Storer, southeasterly by land laid out to John Low, and then running back from the river till it meets the Kennebunk lots, which two lots make a mile square. The Wadleigh grant was laid out the same day as the foregoing, beginning at the northeast side of Mousam River and adjoining the Eppses' grant, running northwest up the river one hundred and twenty rods, etc.

1720, May 10. Proprietors grant to John Wheelwright, Samuel Wheelwright and the heirs of Joseph Taylor two hundred acres adjoining Mousam Great Falls, beginning at Coxhall line and running down the river one hundred and sixty rods (four acres of which to be on the southwestern side of the river),—one hundred acres to John Wheelwright, fifty acres to Samuel Wheelwright and fifty to Joseph Taylor's heirs. This lot "was set off and divided," at the request of the Wheelwrights and Ichabod Cousens (who had probably purchased the interest of Taylor's heirs), in April, 1735, "To each man and person aforesaid," as follows: "The land below the mill and the hill on the southeast side to be for John Wheelwright, and all the land adjoining as not laid out to be in common for the use of the mill for logs and boards and not for any man to hinder or encumber the way or roads as agreed. John Wheelwright's side of the mill to lay their boards on the southeast side of the road," and the other persons named "to lay their boards on the northwest side of the road." Reference is several times made in this instrument to the "mill pond." This document affords conclusive evidence that there was a double saw-mill in operation at the Great Falls in 1735, and it is fair to suppose that there were at



least one dwelling-house and a barn for the accommodation of employees and cattle. The privilege was unimproved in 1750, and there is no evidence that ruins of either mill or other buildings were visible. Whether dam and mill had been swept away by a freshet, or mill and other buildings had been destroyed by an accidental fire or the Indian's torch is, and doubtless must ever remain, unknown. We learn from Bourne's history that a saw-mill was built on these falls in 1754 by Thomas and James Cousens. We have not been able to obtain any further information respecting it. It could not have been operated much longer than a twelvemonth, inasmuch as a great freshet in October, 1755, swept away every mill then standing on the river. No mill has since been erected on this site.

The selectmen of Wells and a committee appointed by the proprietors of eight miles square of land, Major Phillips's, so-called, met May 29, 1730, and settled the line between this tract and the said town: "beginning at Wells line, formerly settled by Captain Preble, at a marked tree on the west side of Mousam River, which stands directly in the southwest line from a certain marked tree in the bounds as settled between Wells and Coxhall; thence near southwest by Wells's head bounds to a certain marked tree standing on the southwest side of a fresh meadow, commonly called Meriland Meadow." This tract of land was purchased by Major William Phillips, of Saco, from the Sagamore Fluellen, in 1661. It was not carefully surveyed until 1735, and the first settler thereon, so says tradition, took up his abode on Lyon Hill about 1740.<sup>1</sup> Population increased on that portion of it which now forms the town of Sanford, so that an act of incorporation was obtained in 1768, the jurisdiction of the town extending over the entire "square" for several years. In 1784 the portion of the square known in its early settlement as Massabesic was incorporated with the name of Waterborough. In 1794 the territory now known as Alfred was set off as a district or parish, but was not separated from Sanford and incorporated as a town until 1808.

That Littlefield's saw-mill, on Kennebunk River, was rebuilt during the first quarter of the seventeenth century is evident, but in

<sup>1</sup>"The first settlers of Sanford were extremely poor." Their cabins were rudely constructed and scantily furnished. "Here they lived and when needy made a few bunches of shingles, which were hauled to Kennebunk Landing, or sold and a team from there sent after them, for they had no teams."—*History of York County*.

"A tax of 3210 pounds of beef was assessed upon the town" in 1780, during our Revolutionary struggle. "This beef was delivered to the county agent at Kennebunk Landing."—*Ib.* [Waldo Emerson was collector of the excise revenue.]

what year cannot be ascertained, nor, indeed, is it known whether there was any change in the proprietorship. It is probable, however, that there was no change. The first mill was destroyed by the Indians in 1688 or 1689. Storer's mill, below, was erected about 1700, and it is reasonable to suppose that the Littlefields rebuilt about the same time, but no documents exist which will enable us to determine this question, — perhaps it was not rebuilt until the close of Queen Anne's war (1713), or Lovewell's (1725), but there is no satisfactory evidence to sustain either supposition. We infer that the mill was standing, but not in operation, in 1736. The original owners had passed away and their heirs were not disposed to, or for some reason could not, continue the business and hold, undivided, the land adjoining the Great Falls. In 1730 Edmund Littlefield's grant of one hundred acres (1680) was laid out for Samuel Littlefield, Joseph Sayer and Nathaniel Kimball. It does not appear that the mill and dam were included in this survey; in his description of the bounds, the surveyor says: "beginning fourscore rods *above the saw-mill now standing on Kennebunk River and running to the mill and from thence,*" etc.; in 1733 Hill and Fairfield laid out, under an old grant, ten acres of meadow, "beginning at the old mill-stage and running up river eighty rods to Edmund Littlefield's upper bounds." We infer from these documents that perfect harmony did not prevail among the heirs of the original mill owners, and also that Storer's mill was not standing in 1730,<sup>1</sup> and that no saw-mill was then in operation on the river.

On the twenty-second of March, 1736, there was surveyed for Nathaniel and Richard Kimball one hundred acres of land, in two contiguous lots, each containing fifty acres, — one of the lots under grant to Jonathan Hammond (1666) and the other under grant to William Harmon (1720), "beginning at the southeasterly corner of Edmund Littlefield's odd lot at Kennebunk, a little below the upper landing-place by the side of a gutter that leads into the river, where it is usual to raft logs, thence southwest eighty rods, thence northwest two hundred rods," etc. This survey inaugurated the permanent settlement of the village district. To this time no dwelling-house had been erected within its limits, if we except the temporary structures that had been put up in the vicinity of the mills on the Mousam and Kennebunk, which at this date had either entirely disappeared or were so dilapidated as to be untenable. The Kimballs were natives of Scotland and emigrated to this country as early as 1720.

<sup>1</sup>Storer's mill was probably burned by the Indians in 1723.

Nathaniel had become a resident of the western part of Wells in that year. Richard did not become a citizen of the town until sometime between 1726 and 1730.<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel married Abigail Cousens in 1726, and Richard married Catherine Cousens in 1733. Nathaniel was the most energetic of the brothers. He was known in after years as Captain, while Richard attained the position and title of Deacon. Nathaniel's name first appears on the records as a landowner in 1728, when a lot of marsh was laid out for him, beginning at Clay Hill and running down the Mousam to the first great creek; in 1729 he obtained a grant of fifty acres of upland on Alewife Brook; in 1730 he became the owner of one-third part of Edmund Littlefield's first grant of one hundred acres at Kennebunk Great Falls; in 1736, in connection with his brother, he came into possession of his homestead lot; in 1767 the brothers purchased six hundred and thirty acres of land in Coxhall; in 1753 Nathaniel purchased of Samuel Wheelwright, under Paty's grant (1669), ninety-three acres in two lots, bounded by Stephen Larrabee's land, Kennebunk River, and Samuel Shackley's easterly corner bounds. Nathaniel was second lieutenant of Colonel Storer's company of volunteers (1744-45, composed chiefly of citizens of Wells), which joined the expedition for the capture of Louisburg, Cape Breton. In this company were Ichabod Cousens and John Look, sergeants, and Caleb Kimball, Edward Evans, Joseph Taylor, James Gillpatrick and Peter Rich, privates, all of whom resided east of Little River. Nathaniel was the first innholder in what is now the village district, and also the first postmaster in the town (1775). He was one of the selectmen of Wells in 1746 and from 1748 to 1753, inclusive. He was also frequently appointed on important committees by the town and by the Second Parish. Richard kept groceries for sale in his house and

<sup>1</sup>The descendants of Nathaniel and Richard have a family tradition that the two brothers came to Wells together, and that another brother, who came over with them, settled in Haverhill, Mass. This, we think, is not entirely correct. It is more probable that only two brothers came over, but immediately after landing on our shores Nathaniel proceeded to Wells, where his uncle Caleb resided, and there found employment as a mill-man and farmer; and that Richard stopped at Haverhill, where he had relatives, for a few years and then took up his abode in Wells. The striking similarity in the Christian names common in the Kimball families in Haverhill and Bradford, Mass., at the time under consideration, and those equally common among the early settlers with this surname in Wells, may be cited as evidence of consanguinity. May 3, 1676, Thomas Kimball, of Bradford, was killed by three "converted Indians," named "Symon, Andrew and Peter." Kimball's wife and five children were made captives, but were afterward released through the influence of the chief of the Penacooks. These "converted Indians" were vile miscreants. Symon was with the noted Mogg in his assault upon Scarborough, October 12, 1676, and was the leader of the party which took several prisoners at Back Cove, near Portland, in August of the same year.



was the first storekeeper in this part of the town. Stephen Harding kept a small stock of groceries for sale in his blacksmith's shop, several years previously, and Moses Stevens, at Cat Mousam, is styled "a trader" in a bill of sale to him, early in the seventeenth century. Kimball's house, which was a large, square, two-story building, was located very near the pleasant site where now stands the brick dwelling-house on what is known as the "Hedge Farm," owned by Aaron Ricker. He was an excellent farmer and gave special attention to the clearing of his land, the cultivation of various crops and the raising of cattle. He was also a very active and much respected member of the Second Parish.

Nathaniel and Richard, in company with John Mitchell and a gentleman belonging in Salem, Mass., were owners of the first vessel built on the Kennebunk River; the shipyard was on the west side of the river on what was called Mitchell's Wharf and was near his dwelling-house. John Bourn was master workman. This was in 1755. The vessel was about eighty tons burthen. Richard subsequently built a sloop at Kennebunk Landing. The Kimball brothers were the highest taxpayers, at this time, in the Second Parish, Richard being assessed a little more than Nathaniel.

The descendants of Nathaniel and Richard are numerous. A few reside in the vicinity of the homes of their ancestors, many in Alewife and its vicinity, and very many are residents in different parts of this State and of other States. A full and correct genealogical record of this family would require a great amount of time and labor for its preparation,—in fact, we doubt if records exist that would render it possible to prepare a full and correct table.<sup>1</sup>

It may be well here to correct an erroneous impression which prevails respecting the Nathaniel Kimball house. It is generally supposed that the dwelling recently occupied by Rev. Frederick Pember was erected by Kimball about 1726. This is an error. The original Kimball house, which was a large, square, two-story building and a blockhouse, was torn down about ninety years ago by his grandson Nathaniel, who constructed the new building chiefly of the materials of the old mansion; nor does it occupy precisely the same site of the above-named; its eastern end abuts on the western end of the site of the old. The one-story dwelling east of

<sup>1</sup> Richard Kimball, who came to this country in 1734, from Ipswich in England, and settled in Ipswich, Mass., in 1737, was of English descent. His descendants are numerous, but much less so, we apprehend, than are those from the first Scotch immigrant to our shores by the name of Kimball. Kimballs (Scotch) were in Haverhill and Bradford as early as 1650.

the Pember house, occupied by Miss Esther Ross, was also built largely of lumber taken from the old Nathaniel Kimball house. The original cellar occupied ground covered by the eastern end of the Pember house and the western end of Miss Ross's house, as well as the vacant land between them.

Caleb Kimball became a resident of Wells certainly as early as the commencement of the seventeenth century, preceding Nathaniel and Richard by some twenty or thirty years. It is believed that he was an uncle to Nathaniel and Richard, and it was undoubtedly through his influence that his nephews came to this country and settled in Wells. He was married to Susanna Cloyes June 15, 1704. We think he lived on or near the main road leading from Wells Corner to Ogunquit.<sup>1</sup> He had two sons: Caleb, who resided awhile near Kennebunk River, and who was married to Beriah Welsh in October, 1738, and about the same time removed to the western part of the town, where he resided the remainder of his lifetime, and Thomas. Whether Caleb, Senior, had other children than the two sons above named is not known.<sup>2</sup> He was an active and much respected man, was one of the selectmen in 1737, and held a number of minor offices in the town during his lifetime; he was also active and prominent in the affairs of the parish. He died, it is supposed, in 1738 or 1739, and thereafter Caleb, Junior, is the Caleb of the records. The latter was one of the selectmen from 1740 to 1742, inclusive, was frequently chosen to fill less important town offices and was often appointed on important committees in town and parish. He had several children: Barack, Heber, Caleb, Hasadiah and perhaps others. Caleb, Senior, we think, was the ancestor of all or nearly all the Kimball families in Wells west of Little River.

Seth Peabody, born in 1740, came from Topsfield, Mass.; he was a temporary resident of this town between the years 1760 and 1770, during which period he married Abigail Kimball. He removed to Alfred about 1770, and was one of the builders of Conant's mill and of Mr. Conant's two-story dwelling-house. He built a house

<sup>1</sup> Caleb Kimball had laid out for him, under grant to Samuel Littlefield, 1680, ten acres of meadow near Alewife Brook in July, 1729, and in July, 1735, had a grant of one hundred acres near Kennebunk River,—"in lieu of a former grant which is represented to be lost,"—which was laid out in March, 1736, "beginning at the northerly corner of the upper lot of Samuel Littlefield, now in possession of Caleb Kimball, junior, . . . leaving a highway of four rods" (the road beginning at the Pember house, leading by Mrs. James Ross's to the old Shackley place).

<sup>2</sup> He probably had other children. Joshua, who died at Cape Breton, 1745, it is thought was Caleb's son.

"thirty rods west of his brother-in-law," Thomas Kimball,<sup>1</sup> who lived a quarter of a mile north of the mill, and there resided until the commencement of the Revolutionary War, when he removed his family to Kennebunk, having sold his Alfred house to "William Parsons, who, after residing in it seven years, moved it a quarter of a mile north and used it for a potash factory and erected a two-story dwelling near this factory." He served as a soldier through the whole term of the Revolutionary War. After his return he bought two-thirds of the Thomas Kimball estate of Theodore Lyman, purchased by him of James Kimball, and the remaining third of the widow. He tore down the blockhouse and built a one-story dwelling in the field not many rods distant from the site of the old. A few years later this was removed and another erected in its immediate vicinity; Isaac, son of Seth, subsequently demolished the last-named and built another on the pleasant knoll in the field, where he spent the larger part of his life and where he died. He had several sons and daughters. John A. Peabody (of Boston, Mass.), son of Isaac, came into possession of the old homestead, and put up, very near the site of the old blockhouse, a handsome dwelling-house, barn, etc., intended for a summer residence.

Thomas Kimball, the second son of Caleb, by gift or otherwise, came into possession of one-half of the grant of one hundred acres which was laid out for his father in 1736, and also of a ten-acre lot of meadow near Alewife Brook, which was laid out for his father in 1729, and a grant to Samuel Littlefield (1680). He built a blockhouse, certainly as early as 1740, very near the site of the summer residence of Mr. John A. Peabody, who owns the whole of the original Thomas Kimball farm. He married Mary Goodwin, of Berwick, in 1737. He had seven sons, viz., Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Thomas, James, Daniel and Nathaniel, and two daughters, viz., Abigail, who married Seth Peabody, and Mary, who married — Spencer; of these nine children only James and Abigail remained in town.

John A. Peabody is a descendant of the fifth generation from Francis Peabody, who emigrated from England to Salem, Mass., in 1635, and was the ancestor of the millionaire and philanthropist, George Peabody, and of Andrew P. Peabody, D. D., LL. D., and of many other eminent men. It is believed that all the Peabody families in Kennebunk and its vicinity are descendants of the above-named Seth and Abigail.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Kimball was the son of Thomas, Senior, and the grandson of Caleb. He also "was one of the builders of Conant's mill and dwelt a quarter of a mile therefrom. He sold to Amos Grandy, a seafaring man from Guernsey, and moved a quarter of a mile west of the brick schoolhouse." He afterward moved to the eastward.



## CHAPTER VIII.

THE PROPRIETARY—DIVISION OF THE "COMMON AND UNDIVIDED LANDS"—GRANTS ON AND NEAR KENNEBUNK RIVER; ON AND NEAR LITTLE RIVER; ON AND NEAR RANKIN'S AND ALEWIVE BROOKS. 1719-1750.

As early as 1716 the legal voters in Wells determined that the "common and undivided lands in Wells doth belong to and hereafter shall remain unto" the persons "hereinafter named and their heirs, in proportion according to their interest in the town, to be disposed of and improved according to the provisions of the law." Then follow the names of thirty-five persons and estates. There was a law on the statute books of the Massachusetts Colony which authorized this measure, the intent of which was undoubtedly wise as well as just. Probably all the towns within the Commonwealth availed themselves of its provisions, although the claims and conditions insisted upon by the voters in the different towns were widely different. In many towns these undivided commons occasioned serious disputes among the residents. Our good forefathers, then in power, were not behind their contemporaries in the stringency of their claims, but we do not find any evidence that the non-proprietors, in view of the action of the before-named meeting, expressed any dissatisfaction on account of their exclusion; the action, however, of those who assumed to be *the* proprietors was undeniably unjust. The names of several landholders of long standing, living east of the Mousam, as well as the heirs of several of the pioneers in other parts of the town, are not included in their list,—men and the heirs of men who well deserved the meed of praise, who were landowners, who had "subdued the wilderness" and struggled heroically with hardship and danger, and who were certainly as much entitled to a full share in any partition of the commons as any other persons in the town. It appears, however, that this exceptional action was subsequently rectified.

In pursuance of the above-named vote (1716), a Proprietary,

consisting of those who claimed the ownership of the common and undivided lands in town, was duly organized, and thenceforward the meetings of the town and those of the Proprietary were held separately, and the records of each were kept in separate books. The proprietors' records commence in 1720, occupy two volumes and embrace the proceedings of the organization for a period of nearly one hundred years, the name of the proprietors' clerk appearing thereon for the last time, May 13, 1816. The affairs of the Proprietary appear to have been carefully and intelligently managed throughout the many years of its existence. Its meetings were legally held, its officers were annually elected, persons entitled to the privilege were admitted as members, the common lands were sold, exchanged or given away at discretion, and all apparently in perfect harmony. From 1720 to 1772 seventy-three persons were admitted, embracing those who, at its commencement, had been disregarded, and the heirs of early settlers whose claims were indisputable, so that at the last-named date the whole number of proprietors was one hundred and eight.

The subject of the division of the commons was frequently discussed at the meetings of the proprietors, various propositions were made in regard to the quantity that should be so divided, and several committees were appointed at different times to examine these lands, and report to subsequent meetings their views as to the best means that could be adopted for their disposal. In 1761, about forty years after the formation of the Proprietary, it was decided to divide twelve thousand acres of the commons among the proprietors, — the lands designated for this purpose lying between Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers to be called the Northern Division, those lying between the Mousam and the highway leading to Sanford to be called the Center Division, and those lying in the western part of the town to be called the Western Division. Four years later it was voted that these lands be laid out into lots containing about one hundred and twelve acres each, "each lot containing three rights, . . . making a proper allowance for the quality of the land, so as to make each lot nearly of a goodness, and the rest to be laid out into such lots as the land will allow of and will best suit the proprietors." A committee appointed "to settle the common rights" reported: "We think each person or right to have as followeth"; then follow the names of the one hundred and eight proprietors, who together owned three hundred and sixty-nine rights: — to John Storer was assigned sixteen rights, to

Joseph Hill, Francis Sayer and Francis Littlefield fourteen rights each, to Thomas Wells and Joseph Littlefield ten rights each, and to the other proprietors were assigned from one-third of a right to eight rights each, "in proportion according to their interest in the town." It was then voted "that the method of determining to whom each lot shall be assigned shall be by a lottery," and a committee was appointed "to prepare said lottery." On the eighteenth day of May, 1772, the drawing took place. It was probably a gala day in the town. It is not to be supposed that there were not among the crowd those who had hoped for a different result, so far as related to the location of their individual "rights," but there was no suspicion of unfairness, and inasmuch as all obtained gifts of actual value all were pleased. The pioneers in our settlement, who had succeeded in giving some shape and comeliness to their respective homesteads, who had in a manner prepared the way for later settlers, and who had endured all the hardships, privations and dangers incident to their undertakings, were justly entitled to this remuneration for their services and trials. The distribution was eminently beneficial to the holders of rights and contributed to the prosperity of the settlement; many persons were thereby enabled to make desirable additions to their homesteads or to furnish farms to their sons, and many, who for some cause did not wish to improve their rights, sold them to others who wished to become actual settlers. Nathaniel Cousens added to his farm land in its vicinity to which two rights entitled him; Benjamin Stevens added to his farm adjacent land to which six and two-thirds rights entitled him; Joseph Wormwood, Obediah Emmons, Lemuel Hatch, James Wakefield, Obediah Littlefield, John Butland, Benjamin Day, Paul Shackford, Anthony Littlefield, Elizabeth Gillpatrick, widow of John, Junior, John Wormwood, Junior, John Cousens, 3d, Samuel Cousens, Junior, Josiah Wakefield, Obediah Hatch, Daniel Hatch, Reuben Hatch, Eli Wormwood, each added to his or her farm, or home lot, land to which one right entitled him or her, several of these rights being obtained by purchase from the persons to whom they were originally assigned. James Kimball had one right on the north side of Branch River; Daniel Little one right at Coxhall line; Jonathan Taylor two rights on Mousam River; Nathaniel and Richard Kimball three rights adjoining their lands, and several others had fractions of rights in different parts of the town,—Samuel Curtis, Joseph Hobbs, James Hubbard, Nathaniel Wells, Junior, and Nicholas West, committee for laying out the



lots in the three divisions, each receiving fifty acres of commons for his services.

Several hundred acres of commons remained undivided after these twelve thousand acres had been selected, surveyed and assigned, but the proprietors considered them of trifling value. Applicants for grants were seldom refused; in many cases these grants were for no particularly defined lots, but might be laid out wherever lands could be found not clearly within any other person's rightful possession.<sup>1</sup> "Rights" were a marketable commodity for many years, and were purchased to be laid out on, or to "cover," strips of territory to which those in possession were unable to establish perfectly clear titles, and thus render their titles beyond controversy. Rights were also purchased to be laid out over meadows and marshes, nooks or corners, that no one had considered it desirable to possess, and concerning the ownership of which no one had inquired or cared, but which, late in the last and early in the present century, when the adjacent lots had considerably increased in value, owing to the larger population and prosperity of the settlement, were regarded by abutters and speculators as worth "looking up" and securing.

Among the earliest grants made by this Proprietary—we think the first east of Little River—was that to Thomas Wormwood,<sup>2</sup> May

<sup>1</sup>The proprietors granted to Rev. Nathaniel H. Fletcher, in May, 1802, twenty acres of land to be laid out upon any of the common and undivided lands in Wells. This grant was laid out on several lots which Mr. Fletcher had purchased of different persons, in order that, by thus "covering" them, his title might be made indisputable. Joseph Storer claimed a part or the whole of a lot which Mr. Fletcher had purchased of Reuben Hatch, on the west side of the road, nearly opposite his home lot; four-fifths of this lot, at the date of the transfer, had been in Hatch's possession for twenty-eight years, and the remaining fifth, twenty-four years. Three acres on the west side of the road, opposite his homestead, Mr. Fletcher bought of Moses Littlefield and the heirs of Samuel Stevens, Jr., who purchased it of Joel Larrabee, who derived his title from the heirs of Samuel Wheelwright. The lots covered by Mr. Fletcher's grant were confirmed to him by the proprietors in May, 1804. Mr. Fletcher's homestead (on the east side of the Alfred road) was then bounded on the north by land of Abraham Currier and on the northwest by land of James Ridgeway.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas removed to Arundel from Kittery in 1719; he was the son of William Wormwood, who resided in Kittery as early as 1647. Thomas obtained a grant of one hundred acres of upland and three acres of meadow from the proprietors of Wells in 1716; sixty acres of the upland were laid out on the east side of the river (in the Larrabee neighborhood), and in 1719 the remaining forty acres were laid out "adjoining his marsh on the southwest side of the river." Wormwood was in charge of Harding's garrison when his son William, who was assisting Captain Felt, was killed by the Indians in 1724. As peace with the natives was concluded in 1725, he probably moved to Kennebunk and put up a dwelling-house on his land on the east side of the river; he was a resident here in 1726. Before 1750 his son, Thomas Wormwood, Jr., built and occupied a house on his grant of "sum quantity of land" (1719) on the west side of the river.

12, 1719, of "sum quanty of upland ajoying to his marsh on the southwest side of Mousam River and anuf to make up his home lot one hundred akers"; this grant, as laid out, was bounded on the northwest by Joseph (Rachel) Taylor's marsh, by Nathaniel Clark's marsh on the southeast, and "so lies between the two creeks 80 rods and so across the land from creek to creek." It also granted to John Look a quantity of land adjoining Rachel Taylor's land, on the southwest side of Mousam River, enough to make his home lot one hundred acres, twenty rods in breadth by the river.

#### ON AND NEAR KENNEBUNK RIVER.

1720. Proprietors grant to Thomas Boothby fifty acres on, forty rods by the river, adjoining James Wakefield's land; to David Lawson (also spelled on the records Losson and Lauson),<sup>1</sup> fifty acres on southeast side of Boothby's lot, "reserving a road four rods wide between said Lawson's and Boothby's land"; to William Larabee four acres on western side of, on a brook that runs through Stephen Harding's pond marsh, beginning at a beaver dam, etc.

1728. Grant to Samuel Emery of one hundred acres at "Cannebunk," description of bounds imperfect.

1730. Lot of marsh to David Lawson, adjoining the river, under grant to Samuel Hill; the lot of one hundred acres granted to Joseph Storer in 1699 (Lower Falls mill lot) was laid out for John Storer; the lot of one hundred acres granted to Edmund Littlefield in 1680 (on upper or Great Falls mill lot) was laid out for Samuel Littlefield, Joseph Sayer and Nathaniel Kimball on the second of July; fifty acres on, to David Lawson, formerly granted to Nicholas Cole, bounded on the southwest by meadow in possession of Richard Boothby; to Stephen Larrabee eight acres of meadow on small brook running into, and two acres on Alewife Brook, under grant (1720) to Thomas Busby; laid out for Henry Maddox, under grant to S. Littlefield (1716), ninety-two acres, leaving four poles

<sup>1</sup>Lawson or Lauson, David, was an inhabitant of Wells prior to 1720. He appears to have been an energetic man, a speculator—buying and selling lots of land in various sections of the town and in Lyman—and we have reason to believe was a respectable citizen. His name frequently occurs on the records of Wells. He obtained several grants of land from the town, which, with lots purchased by him, he sold at different times to different individuals. He owned land in the vicinity of Little River, at Alewife, and near the ocean. Gooch's Creek was originally known as Lawson's Creek. He probably purchased land in its vicinity after the saw-mill which was erected on the slight fall thereon had been proved a failure and abandoned. He married Penelope Sampson—daughter of James Sampson, who lived near Cole's Corner—May 19, 1737. A son, David, was born to them September 17, 1741; it is not known whether they had any other addition to their family. He probably lived in the old Sampson house. He left town with his family before 1750.

for a highway to meet Thomas Wormwood's land and from said way running southeast and northeast to, and eight acres on "town's commons," on northeast side of Pond Lake, running to David Lawson's line, etc.

1733. Laid out for John Webber forty acres, under grant to Stephen Harding (1713), the lake, so-called, on the northeast side and the commons on the southwest side; for James Ross, son of the late John Ross, under grant to William Standlee (1720), lot of meadow ground, beginning "at the mouth of a small brook which comes from the norward and parts in two brooks, all on both brooks"; for Joseph Hill, of Wells, and John Fairfield, of Arundel, ten acres of meadow on west side of, "beginning at the old mill stage, adjoining the river, two rods in breadth, and running up eighty rods to Edmund Littlefield's upper bounds, under grant to Joseph Hill, 1714." (This appears to be an attempt to cover with an old town grant one-half of the four rods reserved by the town for a highway; if so, a sharp but probably an invalid transaction.)

1734. Grant to James Wakefield land on, adjoining William Taylor's land, running down the river one hundred and sixty rods and running back on a straight course one hundred rods; proprietors confirmed to John Butland three hundred acres of land adjoining Stephen Harding's line, "his home lot, with his brother George Butland, equal with him (i. e., six hundred acres in the whole), to the head of the lot, running two and a half miles, beginning at the Salt Marsh with the island commonly called Butland's Island."

December, 1735. Laid out for John and George Butland part of the tract of six hundred acres held by them under grant by Edward Rushworth and Henry Boad to William Hammond and John Buss, July, 1649, adjoining Kennebunk River, "beginning at the mouth thereof and so running up said river to the first Salt Water Falls, the part of said tract now laid out, by said river, containing two hundred and ninety-six acres, beginning at Stephen Harding's upper corner bounds and running northeasterly to Capt. John Storer's land, and so along said land as far as it extends, and then west one mile, and thence southwesterly to said Harding's westerly corner bounds." The Butlands divided this lot between them at the middle point, John taking the northerly side or half part, and George the southerly half part; the same year there was laid out for John Webber forty acres, under grant to S. Harding (1713), the lake, so-called, on the northeast side of said land, and the commons on the southwest, near Wood Neck.



1737. Laid out for Joseph Hill, under grant to him in 1714, five acres of meadow on the southwest side of a small brook, "which brook is next above the meadow laid out to Stephen Larrabee, beginning at a certain Beaver dam across the meadow, against two high points of land on each side of the meadow," and two acres on same brook, "bounded by a Beaver dam and running in two brooks or drains the breadth of the meadow."

1741. Samuel Wheelwright conveys to Henry Maddox, under grant to Thomas Paty, 1669, which was confirmed to said Wheelwright in 1735, a lot of land bounded by Ichabod Cousens's land, formerly Corwin's, by Nathaniel Kimball's southerly corner and Hill and Storer's easterly corner, and so up into the country by Kimball's line; also nine and one-half acres adjoining the above-named lot.

1745. Laid out for James, John and Nathaniel Wakefield five acres of lowland "between Kennebunk River and the upland or homestead," in three pieces, being one-half of a grant of ten acres to their father, James Wakefield, in 1693. Renewed bounds of one hundred acres granted to Nicholas Cole, Senior, 1680, below and adjoining Edmund Littlefield's mill lot, running from a certain tree near the river south-southwest "along by the side of the hill," etc., for John Storer.

1747. Renewed bounds of one hundred acres of land for Jesse Town, beginning at, running southwest by west one hundred rods, then northwest sixty rods to the creek called Falls Creek, then sixty rods on the river to Stephen Titcomb's land, then "S. W. by W. 100 rods in the bounds between said Titcomb & Town," etc.

1753. Nathan Littlefield sold one-half of his grant of July, 1680, to Nathaniel Kimball, John Mitchell, Stephen Larrabee, and James, Nathaniel and John Wakefield. This was adjoining Kennebunk River.

1759. Proprietors, by a committee, laid out for Richard Kimball one hundred and sixty-nine and one-half acres, "by virtue of deed to him from Benj. Curtis and Benj. Curtis, junior, beginning at James Lord's E. corner in Benj. Day's line, running to Kennebunk River," etc., and at same date sixty acres, by virtue of deed from same persons, for John Taylor, at the easterly corner of Deacon Larrabee's land.

1772. Laid out for Daniel Little, under grant to Nathan Littlefield, 1680, twenty acres, "beginning at Kennebunk River, at the mouth of a brook, being John Butland's corner bounds, then S. W. by Butland's line to the road," etc.

1773. Samuel Town bought a common right of Nathaniel Wakefield's heirs, under which there was laid out to him thirteen acres, in December, 1714, "where he now liveth, on the west side of the town road, in the line of Jacob Town's land, running to Jotham Mitchell's land," etc.

Renewed boundary lines of and divided tract of land for John Mitchell and Joseph Bragdon, Junior, beginning at Kennebunk River, at a tree standing by the first salt water falls, running southwest to Esquire Storer's corner boundary, then west and southwest to Stephen Titcomb's line, then easterly to a remarkably rocky point by the river, then as the river runs to the place begun at; one-half part of said land (westerly) the property of John Mitchell and Mary Bragdon, and the easterly half part to Joseph Bragdon, Junior. Joseph Storer, Jabez Emery and Stephen Titcomb, owners of adjoining lands, agree to the above boundaries and lines. January, 1778.

Laid out for Samuel Town a tract of land containing sixty-seven and a half acres, which he bought of Hannah and Joseph Storer in 1790, beginning at a point of rocks about two rods below the lower falls on Kennebunk River, adjoining Stephen Webber's land, etc., December, 1791.

#### ON OR NEAR LITTLE RIVER.

May 10, 1720. Proprietors granted to Joseph Storer, Francis Sayer, Thomas Wells and Jeremiah Storer, two hundred acres on north side of, adjoining their mill, eighty rods above and eighty rods below the mill, "in lieu of a grant which is represented to be lost"; also the privilege of twenty rods square on the south side, adjoining the mill, to be improved as a mill yard.<sup>1</sup> During the year 1720 grants were made as follows: of fifty acres to Peter Rich, on westerly side of Joseph Taylor's land; fifty acres to Philip Fowler, on westerly side of Peter Rich's land; fifty acres to Jonathan Sinkler, bounded north by Joseph Taylor's land and south by the road that goes into the country; ten acres meadow to John Cole, on two small brooks that run into the northern branch of; fifty acres upland and ten of meadow to Joseph Day, on northern

<sup>1</sup>This is the "Burnt Mill" lot, so frequently mentioned in the records. It begins "half a rod southwest of a large, fast rock on the bank of Little River, which rock is twelve rods from the Burnt Mill bridge up the river." The event from which this locality derives its name and the date of its occurrence cannot now be ascertained. "A mill stood there, among the first built in the township, which was burned by the Indians," comprises all history attainable.

branch of, "near the upper way going to Mousam"; ten acres to Andrew Symington on the northern branch of, "beginning at the new highway," also to said Symington fifty acres upland, adjoining Jonathan Sinkler's land; fifty acres to John Fane, adjoining Philip Fowler's land on the north, and on the south bounded by Joseph Day's land. Day exchanged his grant for this, laid out to Fane and forfeited, in 1728, by permission of the proprietors.

From 1721 to 1734. Laid out for Nicholas Cole eighty-five acres on, west side of (Little River) Great Falls, under grant to Frost and Hammond (1682); for Samuel Treadwell sixty-one acres near to the foregoing, under before-named grant; twenty-five acres and falls on the main brook of the easterly branch of, for John Storer, under grant to Benjamin Storer (1670); for John Wheelwright one hundred acres on, under grant to John Reede (1666), eighty rods above and eighty rods below the mill formerly built by Sayer, Storer, Wells and Cole; for Nicholas Cole, under grant to William Frost, lot bounded on northwest by old Mousam path, county road and bridge; for Rev. Mr. Jefferds one hundred acres on northern branch of; for Nathaniel Clark ninety-five acres on, bounded by land of Peter Rich and others, under grant to his father (1713); for William Taylor fifty acres, fifty rods in breadth by Mousam old road, adjoining lot formerly Joseph Day's, leaving four rods for a highway; for Henry Maddox ten acres swamp land, part of former grant to Joseph Day.

December 30, 1734. Town granted to James Gillpatrick on the southwest side of the northern branch of Little River, adjoining Rev. Mr. Jefferds' land, said land running to Little River, "sixty-six rods from Nathan Littlefield's land and from the highway, down by John Bourn," etc. Gillpatrick bought of Thomas Boothby a grant made to him in 1720 of land on Kennebunk River, but it was found that it could not be located at the place named in the instrument without trespassing on lots previously granted and laid out to other persons. The grant was then laid out on Little River, as above described, and Gillpatrick "settled on the land";—in order to make his title perfect he petitioned the town for a confirmation of his action, and his petition was readily complied with. This lot continued in possession of Gillpatrick and his descendants until about 1875, when it was sold to Charles H. P. Storer.

1734. Grant to Jeremiah Storer of one hundred acres, "beginning 20 rods N. E. from the Falls on Little River, commonly called,



between said river and the heads of the old lots, easterly." In 1735 grant to same of eighty-six acres on, bounded on the northwest by the mill—land, etc.,—grant to John Wheelwright of one hundred acres on the northern side of, "near the Burnt Mill, so-called"; confirmed grant to Nathan Littlefield of fifty acres, his homestead, near said river; laid out for Benjamin Gooch five acres of meadow ground, under grant to Joseph Day (1720), beginning "at the mouth of a small gully, near a pair of falls, where there is a small island of rocks"; January 14, 1735, proprietors sold two hundred acres to Samuel Clark (to raise money to pay their indebtedness), seventy-five acres of which were laid out on north side of, adjoining Eleazer Clark.

1741. Laid out for Peter Rich twelve acres, adjoining his land, on northern branch of (under C. L. & Co.'s grant), 1742. Laid out for James Gillpatrick ten acres on northern side of northern branch of, adjoining Rich's land, under grant to Daniel Boston. Laid out for Moses Chick twenty-five acres, under grant to Ichabod Cousens of one hundred acres on south side of Mousam River (1744), on northern branch of Little River; and for Joshua Goodwin, adjoining Chick's land, under same grant.

1752. Laid out for John Wormwood, under Rich's grant, lot of land on northerly side of, a little above the saw-mill, adjoining Samuel Jefferds's and John Cole's lands.

We find, occasionally, a specimen of magniloquent composition by our forefathers. A committee appointed by the town to settle the bounds of the ministerial lot of land (first parish), commence the report of their action in the matter as follows:—

"This instrument made the twenty-first day of July, Anno Domini 1743 Anneq<sup>e</sup> Georgi secondi Magna Britanie & Decimo Septimo, witnesseth," etc. The mass of the townsmen must have been highly edified while listening to this introductory sentence.

#### ON OR NEAR ALEWIVE BROOK.

1721. Laid out for John Wells, under grant (1671) of one hundred acres to John Gooch, and now sold for his heirs by Benjamin Gooch, fifty acres of upland on both sides of, "the other 50 acres laid out between the branches of Little River"; also laid out for said Wells ten acres of marsh on the southeast end of Alewive Brook, "lying in sundry forms, which contains all the marsh from thence to the brook's mouth"; renewed bounds of thirty acres of

meadow on, original grant to Nicholas Cole, Edmund and Samuel Littlefield, all deceased, now the property of Nicholas Cole and Samuel Littlefield, "runs north northeast to a small little hill on the northeast side of"; laid out for James Wakefield ten acres of meadow, bounded southeasterly by William Larrabee's meadow, . . . takes in a cove of about an acre, etc.

1721 to 1730. Laid out for John Look three acres of meadow on, bounded by Cole, Littlefield and Larrabee; for Caleb Kimball, under grant to Samuel Littlefield (1680), ten acres on, "a little hill and two islands in the bounds"; for Nathaniel Kimball fifty acres upland on southwest side of; for Joseph Hill, under grant to him (1715), lot of meadow on, lying near the head of the township, "on a brook that runs into a pond commonly called [1729] Alewife Pond"; for Samuel Littlefield, "of Arundel, alias Capporpus," under grant to his father, Edmund Littlefield (1680), beginning at the upper great Beaver dam on, and running down on each side thereof to the first great falls, ten acres; ten acres of meadow to Samuel Wheelwright, "lying on a small brook which vents itself into the westerly corner of Ellwife pond, beginning at Beaver dam," etc.; lot of meadow on, to David Lawson, adjoining Stephen Larrabee's meadow and running up the brook; also lot of meadow on a small brook which runs into, then down to second beaver dam, "with all the small cricks and slangs lying within these bounds."

1734. Laid out lots of meadow on, and on southwest side of Alewife Creek, for Samuel Emmons and Thomas Wormwood, Junior, under Sinkler's grant (1714).

1738. Laid out for Samuel Littlefield nine acres of marsh "on the northern side of, at the head of James Wakefield's marsh, leaving eight rods by the brook, which is David Lawson's, then running up by said Lawson's till it meets with the upland and so back into the Popple Swamp, and one acre in the Round Houle."

1743. Laid out for Samuel Littlefield ten acres meadow (under grant to C. L. & Co., 1714), "at the Lower end of Alewife Pond, at the head of Lawson's meadow — part of it is three islands in said Pond"; laid out for Henry Maddox fifty acres, bought of Samuel Wheelwright, beginning thirty rods south of the mouth of the Kennebunk River.

1751. Laid out for John Maddox forty acres, near "Elwife brook," being part of Paty's grant (1669) and subsequently confirmed to Samuel Wheelwright, "by whom it was sold to Shadrack

Watson, beginning at Benj. Kimball's land on, thence running to the Mill Lot, so-called, belonging to said Kimball."

Laid out for Caleb Kimball, Junior, seven acres of meadow, beginning at the head of a small run or brook "which venteth itself into Epheard Brook." (The description of this lot is imperfect. It is believed that the name Epheard Brook does not again appear on the records.)

A friend who has a taste for the study of ancient things, to whom we referred this description, is satisfied, after patient examination and inquiry, that the meadow named is that in Meserve's pasture, and the brook is that now known as "Boom Brook," which has its rise in that pasture, running thence across the road and through land belonging to the Ross farm to Kennebunk River.

#### ON OR NEAR RANKIN'S BROOK OR CREEK.

1720. Laid out for Andrew Symington ten acres meadow at and upon a small brook running into Mousam River, commonly called Rankin's Creek, beginning at the head of Clark's bounds and so running down the brook; seven acres on this brook laid out for Philip Fowler same year; two acres laid out for Peter Rich (1721); Rich also purchased of Samuel Clark a few acres on this brook, which were confirmed to him by the proprietors in 1735; this lot adjoined Fowler's grant which was forfeited and subsequently laid out for John Storer; a lot of meadow on this brook was confirmed to John Bourne, 1728; John Wells, in 1731, under grant to his father (1668), sold about five acres thereon to Henry Maddox.

1776. Surveyed for Moses Hubbard, under Look's grant (1714), ten acres on, beginning at the county road at Nathaniel Cousens's fence.



## CHAPTER IX.

1720-1750 — LAND GRANTS ON THE MOUSAM RIVER — “CAT MOUSAM” MILLS — SAW-MILLS ON ALEWIVE BROOK.

Perhaps no method can be adopted by which more intelligible and accurate ideas can be formed of the progress of our settlement from 1720 to 1750 than that of copying or condensing, from the town and the proprietors' records, the principal grants and conveyances of land made between these dates and therein recorded, and in chronological order as nearly as may be practicable. We therefore continue the record of these grants and conveyances which was commenced in the preceding chapter.

It is true that many of the original grants were forfeited and again granted to other persons, and not unfrequently the second grantees failed to fulfill the conditions of their conveyances, and the tracts were once more granted, and to third parties. No little confusion was occasioned by carelessness in laying out grants, by which encroachments were often made on those previously surveyed, and many conveyances were made by persons of whom there is no anterior mention and of whose ownership of the lots thus conveyed no recorded evidence is found; still, notwithstanding their intricacy and in some cases incomprehensibleness, these records clearly indicate the portions of territory that first attracted the attention of the settlers and speculators of the period, and, moreover, furnish us with the names of those who in olden times were temporarily inhabitants within our bounds. Little River, in consequence of its proximity to the main settlement, was improved by the mill men at an early day; the superior water power on the Mousam, as well as the intervalles and salt marshes on its banks and in its immediate vicinity, and the mill sites and intervalles on the Kennebunk were soon sought by speculators and settlers, while the meadows on Alewive Brook and on Rankin's Brook or Creek were among the earliest for which grants were solicited. Water power and timber land for the mills, and intervalle and marsh for grass and edible grains and other plants were in request, while the upland was in a great measure neglected.

## ON OR NEAR MOUSAM RIVER.

1701. Laid out for Nicholas Cole grant of ten acres of marsh on, beginning at the eastern side of a point of land commonly called "Ipsos Poainte," on the western side, and for Nathaniel Clark ten acres, beginning at the upper end of Cole's land.

1717. Laid out for Nathaniel Clark, Senior, five acres fresh meadow, lying upon a brook which runs into, beginning at a tree "where comes in a small brook on the easterly side of said brook, running up the last-named westerly."

Laid out for Samuel Littlefield one hundred acres on northerly side of, adjoining Thomas Wormwood's land, forty rods in breadth, to run northeast on the easterly side to Kennebunk River, and on the northerly side of James Wakefield's land. (Sold to Henry Maddox, 1732.)

1718. Laid out for Joseph Storer one hundred acres upland on the southwest side of, beginning above the upper wading-place, forty rods in breadth by the river.

1719. Grant to John Look — laid out in 1723 — of a quantity of land joining Rachel Taylor's on southwest side of, to make his home lot one hundred acres.

1720. Proprietors grant to William Harmon fifty acres, adjoining Mr. Corwin's land, forty rods by; to William Larrabee lot of meadow land, on west side of, on creek or brook running through Joseph Taylor's land.

1727. Laid out for Samuel Curtis one hundred acres on west side of, under grant to Benjamin Curtis (1684).

1729. Laid out for David Lawson lot of "marsh and thatch islands, beginning at western end of the Great Hill, containing three islands."

1730. Grant to Benjamin Storer of one hundred acres upland and marsh, on southwest side of.

1731. "Laid out for John Low, grandson to Herlackindon Symonds," one hundred thirty-five acres, under grant to Thomas Mussey (1659), which he sold to Symonds in 1660, beginning at the head of Edmund Littlefield's marsh on northeast side of, "and adjoining land that was granted to William Larrabee, now deceased, and now in the possession of Edmund Evans, thence northwest up the river sixty rods, and thence three hundred sixty rods to Kennebunk River to a marked tree, and thence down river sixty rods

southeasterly to a marked tree, thence southwesterly to the first-mentioned bounds." This tract was formerly known as "Low's line."

1734. Laid out for Richard Stimpson and Ichabod Cousens, heirs of Thomas Cole, under grant to said Cole (1693), one hundred acres on southwest side of, beginning at the head of the township; for Jedediah Gooch sixty-five acres, under grant to Robert Sinkler (1713); for Jedediah Gooch two lots aggregating seventy-five acres, on and near the river, under grant to Robert Sinkler (1714). Grant to Ichabod Cousens one hundred acres on south side of. Cousens sold twenty-five acres of this grant to Joshua Goodwin, which was laid out near the northern branch of Little River in 1743.

1735. Laid out for John Webber, under grant to William Harmon (1720), ten acres salt marsh on the northwest side of, "seeittuote and lying on the easterly cove or crick commonly called Cutts' Cove"; also eighty acres near a place called Wood Neck, adjoining Stephen Harding, etc., which Webber bought of Samuel Littlefield.

A grant of two hundred acres, lying on the northeast side of, was confirmed to Samuel Wheelwright, July 14, 1735. These two hundred acres were originally granted (1669) to James Johnson, of York, and Thomas Paty, of Wells, one hundred acres to each, and were forfeited for non-compliance with conditions. It does not appear by what operation these two grants, more than sixty years after they had been forfeited, were united and Paty named as sole grantee.

Grant to Joseph Sayer and Nathaniel Wells of one hundred and fifty acres on westerly side of, "it being the land called Eps Point, beginning at the second creek from the [old] Harbor's mouth, and so running by and upon said creek and upon Mousam River," etc.

1736. Laid out for James Littlefield seventeen and one-half acres on the easterly side of, "where there is now a mill erected," beginning at "Benjamin Gooch's easterly corner bound of five acres." This was part of a grant (December 7, 1659) to Francis Littlefield, Senior, and Joseph Bolles of "two hundred acres apiece, with all the marsh on both sides of four mile brook."

1737. Laid out for John Cutts, of Portsmouth, N. H. (probably an heir to John Cutts, deceased, to whom Sanders sold this estate in 1663), all the real estate in Wells which was formerly owned by the late John Sanders, comprising the grants to said Sanders by Thomas Gorges and by the town of Wells, in all four hundred acres, "beginning at the easterly side of the Little River, at the upper wading-place, and so running up and by said river to



the second creek to Henry Boothby's bounds and northeasterly to his northern corner," thence to the second creek on Mousam River, "and so down the river until it cometh to the sea and so by the sea-wall to the first-mentioned bounds." By whom the Sanders house was occupied for seventy-four years subsequently to its purchase by the senior Cutts is not certainly known.

Sanders, after selling his estate between Mousam and Little Rivers, removed to Cape Porpoise, where Bradbury states he purchased land and attended town meeting in 1663. He died in 1670. His estate was inventoried at about seven hundred dollars, although it included one thousand acres of land, situated "eight or nine miles above Cape Porpus river falls." He left two sons, Thomas and John, one daughter, Elizabeth, and perhaps other children.

1747. Laid out for Jedediah Wakefield, under grant to James Wakefield (1714), forty acres bounded on, about two rods below the mile spring and running down said river.

1749. Renewed bounds of one hundred acres upland on southwest side of, grant to Joseph Storer (1714), beginning a little above the upper wading-place and running up river, for John Storer.

1750. Laid out for Benjamin Cousens, under grant to Thomas Cole, one hundred acres (1684), fifty-seven acres on southwest side of, adjoining John Storer's land, a little above the bridge, running southwest one hundred sixty and southeast sixty rods, then east to river; forty-three acres on northwest side of Storer's land, running southwest one hundred twenty and north eighty rods to gully, thence north to Rankin's Creek<sup>1</sup> and down this creek to the river.

#### CAT MOUSAM MILL.

The precise date when the first mill was built on the Middle Falls (Cat Mousam) cannot be determined. In September, 1736, under grant to Francis Littlefield, Senior, and Joseph Bolles (1659), there was laid out for Benjamin Gooch two and a half acres of land on the northern side of the Mousam, beginning at the "mouth of a small gully, near a certain pair of falls, where there is a small island of rocks, about twenty-four rods down said river from the mentioned place," and in November of the same year there was laid out for said Gooch a lot of about nine acres of meadow land, under Jonathan Littlefield's grant of two hundred ten acres of upland and marsh (1688), "beginning about twenty-four rods above the new

<sup>1</sup>Subsequently known as "Rand's Spring," but the original designation has been restored in later years.

mill, on the easterly side of Mousam River, at the mouth of a small gully," etc.<sup>1</sup> These are the first references we find to a mill on these falls. If it was the *new* mill in 1736, we may reasonably suppose that it could not have been built earlier than 1730. In the surveyor's description of a lot of land laid out near these falls in March, 1738, he says, "beginning on the northern side of Mousam River, where the selectmen's mill, so-called, stood." It would appear from this that the new mill was generally known as the selectmen's mill and that it was not standing in March, 1738; whether it had been destroyed by fire or flood is unknown. Why it was called the "selectmen's mill" can be conjectured only. In 1730 Joseph Hill, Samuel Wheelwright, John Storer and Francis Littlefield were selectmen of Wells, all of whom were enterprising mill owners; it is not improbable that they erected this mill, or, at least, held the larger part of it, and hence its designation.

In describing the bounds of a lot of land laid out near the Middle Falls in 1743, the surveyor says, "which is near the saw-mill that stands on said river." We learn from this that a saw-mill had been erected on or near the site of that destroyed prior to 1738, but probably not by the same parties; there is no reason to believe that it was built principally by persons owning the land in the vicinity of the falls. Mary Bulman, widow of Dr. Alexander Bulman, of York, gave a bond, dated January 31, 1748, for the conveyance by herself and her son Alexander, when he should become twenty-one years of age, "of one-eighth part of a certain saw-mill now standing on the river of Mousam," which her husband in his lifetime bought of Benjamin Gooch. This mill, in common with all others on the stream, was carried away by the great freshet of 1755. We find evidence that another mill was built on these falls prior to 1761, which is described as "a double mill known as the Middle Mill," which we think was owned chiefly, if not entirely, by persons residing east of Little River; this succumbed to a remarkable freshet in 1785, by which the mill property on the stream was again very nearly, if not entirely, destroyed. The dams on the river at this time, as they had

<sup>1</sup> In 1738 there was laid out for Samuel Littlefield, under grant to Caleb Littlefield & Co. of six hundred acres upland and sixty acres of fresh meadow (1714), two hundred acres of upland and meadow in the vicinity of the mill lot, and in 1743 the remainder of their grant, four hundred acres of upland and thirty of meadow, was also laid out for said Samuel, three hundred of which was "near the Middle Falls" and one hundred acres "at a place called the mile spring"; but he probably could not fulfill the conditions of this deed, inasmuch as, a few years later, the original grantees sold in small lots, to different persons, the whole of the six hundred and thirty acres laid out for Samuel Littlefield in 1738 and 1743.

been in preceding years, were weak structures, poorly calculated to withstand the flood that, during these freshets, filled and overflowed the banks of the stream and rushed oceanward with a volume and power of which we can now hardly form any conception.

We must depend upon tradition for the scanty particulars that can be given in reference to the fourth mill erected on these falls. It was built about 1790, in shares, of which there were forty-eight, the shareholders being divided into two classes,—the owners of the privilege and persons who had no interest in the water power and mill yard, but who had contributed labor or materials employed in its construction; each of these shareholders was entitled to its use a certain number of days in the year, according to his interest, respectively, in the privilege or building. This was the method of mill building generally pursued in this vicinity (and we think throughout New England) by the early settlers and as late as the first quarter of the nineteenth century. There were very few persons whose pecuniary means were sufficient to enable them to undertake such a work single-handed, and, moreover, there were obvious advantages secured by this community of interests.

The last-named mill was so severely shattered by a spring freshet, a few years after it had been put in operation, that very extensive repairs were required. Several of the shareholders, privilege owners and others, declined to assist in the making of these repairs, and persons not previously interested became proprietors, either by purchase of rights in the water power or through the furnishing of labor and materials. The repairs were not thoroughly made, so that when completed the mill was far from being first-class, even for the time; it did not command a large business and gradually became so dilapidated that it could not be profitably worked.

In 1825 Jesse Varney, of Dover, N. H., the agent of and a partner in a company that had purchased the water power and land connected therewith at the village, endeavored to purchase this mill site. Joseph Storer had already conveyed to the company ten shares in the privilege and Mr. Varney succeeded in obtaining twenty-two additional shares, with two or three desirable strips of land, when it was found that there were so many claimants to "days" in the mill and to some of the remaining rights in the privilege that it was considered inexpedient to proceed further, inasmuch as a controlling interest in the water power, the chief object in view, had been secured. In 1828 Mr. Varney and his company were compelled to



succumb to pecuniary embarrassments, and the before-named purchases by him were set off on execution to James K. Remich, a creditor, by whom, on the payment of his claim by them, his interest was assigned to Isaac R. Bearce and others, of Pennsylvania, to whom Mr. Varney was indebted. The privilege lay idle for several years, during which time a few offers were made for it, but ridiculously low, in consequence of apprehended trouble in obtaining a clear and peaceful title to the whole premises. In 1855 Oliver Perkins and Joseph Dane purchased the rights held by Bearce and others and those conveyed by Storer, and the following summer erected a saw-mill between the old site and Mitchell's mill, thus obtaining control of the water power and avoiding all difficulties that might arise from conflicting claims.

As early as 1752 the mill on the Middle Falls is referred to, in a conveyance of a lot of land, as "the Saw-mill called the Cat-mill." From what occurrence it received this sobriquet is not positively known. Of the many explanations given, we regard that related to the author several years ago, by an aged gentleman who was born and had always resided in the neighborhood, as the most reasonable and trustworthy: The workmen in the second mill on these falls were much annoyed by graceless youngsters who were frequent visitors and who were in the habit of getting off coarse jokes and playing mischievous pranks. Suspicions had often crossed the minds of these mill men that their dinner boxes had been meddled with, and these suspicions were effectually confirmed one day when they found these boxes completely relieved of their contents. The youngsters were then ordered to leave the premises and were threatened with severe punishment if again found there. One of the men was especially demonstrative, applying to them hard epithets and consigning them to regions where "waves of fire and brimstone roll." Now this man had a cat to which he was much attached and which was almost idolized by his wife. On going to the mill the morning following the day of this disturbance he found the lifeless body of this pet suspended from one of the beams; the bronzed, rough, stalwart man "wept like a child," nor could his fellow-workmen refrain from tears while witnessing the distress of their companion. It may be safely said that those troublesome lads were never again found, individually nor collectively, within the bounds of the mill yard.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Another tradition, less credible, savoring strongly of the marvelous and illustrative of the superstitious notions quite extensively entertained at the time, has been handed down: While the second mill built on these middle falls was standing and in operation, the night hands were for a season frequently visited

Thereafter the mill was nicknamed "the cat mill." The story reached distant neighborhoods, and the scene of the occurrence was described as "the cat mill on the Mousam"; the nickname has been attached to all the mills subsequently built on the site. The territory in the vicinity on the western side of the river, where were the homes of the workmen (there was no dwelling-house on the eastern side of the river for many years after the event above related) was known as "Cat Mousam," which name is still retained by the locality and has been adopted by the eleventh school district (as now numbered) as its distinctive title. The occurrence from which this title is derived dates back nearly one hundred and fifty years; the district is now a very pleasant section of the town, is sufficiently populous for a farming territory, and contains many neat and commodious dwelling-houses which are occupied by thrifty and intelligent families; the barns and other outbuildings, in arrangement and appearance, are creditable to the owners; the land is well and successfully cultivated, the schools are cared for and the district is noted for its thriftiness. The following may be interesting to the inhabitants of the district under consideration.

May 10, 1762. The proprietors voted "that the piece of land lying on Mousam River between Mr. John Mitchell's lot and Mr. John Cousens' land to be common till further orders from the proprietors." This lot is sometimes referred to as the "High Landing."

1752. Richard Thompson bought forty acres, on the west side of his house lot, under John Look's grant<sup>1</sup> of one hundred acres

by a cat, which was in the habit of sitting upon the logs when on the carriage and moving toward the saw, and when driven from one taking the same position on the next. One night the mill man, after warning the animal to leave, said to her, "Well, if you do not get off I will let the saw cut you in two." Unmindful of this threat, as well as of efforts to frighten her away, the cat kept her position until, coming in contact with the saw, one of her forepaws was cut off. The paw fell into the stream and the cat immediately disappeared. The next morning it was ascertained that a woman in the neighborhood had lost one of her hands during the preceding night; of course she was a witch, had taken the form of a cat, and suffered mutilation in the manner just related. Whether she was married or single, or whether she had been impelled by jealousy or love, the tradition does not inform us.

<sup>1</sup> This grant appears to have held out like "the widow's cruse." It was originally laid out, adjoining Larrabee's, on the east side of the river, and it is presumed was good measure, inasmuch as, after it had been located, Wormwood, who had a grant of the adjoining lot, could get only sixty acres without trespassing, and consequently, in 1723, he was allowed "a quantity" more, twenty-five rods in breadth on the southwest side of the river, "to make his home lot one hundred acres." We find, however, that under Look's grant, besides the original location of one hundred acres, in 1752 the above-named lot of forty acres was laid out under this grant, and that in 1772 Moses Hubbard sold to Edmund Currier thirty-seven acres and had ten acres of marsh surveyed for himself, all under same grant.

(1714),—the Richard Thompson homestead on the road from Alewife to West Kennebunk, now owned and occupied by Edmund Thompson, son of David (who resided there) and great-grandson of Richard.

Surveyed for Joseph Gilman two lots of land "in the center division of the common lands of Wells and Kennebunk, lying in Kennebunk, being lots numbered nine and seventeen in said division, which lots said Gilman purchased of Samuel Langdon and others, and are situated within the Cat Mousam District," one of which contained one hundred seven acres and the other one hundred eight acres and sixty rods. Gilman subsequently sold these lots to John Webber, of York, who was the first settler in the Webber District.

Joseph Taylor, Sr., caused his grant of one hundred acres of upland and ten of marsh (1693) to be laid out for his son, Joseph, Jr., on southwest side of Mousam River. About 1752 Joseph, Jr., erected a small dwelling-house on the low land south of the hill, where he dwelt a few years; it was afterward torn down and he erected a good-sized, two-story house on the high land, where he died. He was succeeded in its occupancy by his son Jonathan. After his decease it was purchased by Michael Wise, who carried on the farm (by a tenant) during his lifetime. After his death it came into possession of Thacher Jones, who tore down all the old buildings and erected a very neat dwelling-house, together with barns and other buildings. The present owner is George T. Jones.

1759. Laid out for John Cousens "fifteen acres of land, being part of ninescore acres which Adam Cushing, late of Weymouth, bought of Gilbert Brooks, and was formerly the estate of William Taylor, bounded in part by second Mousam mill privilege."

1772. Laid out for Eliab Littlefield forty-four acres, under John Littlefield's grant (1715), adjoining said Eliab's land and running by Benjamin Stevens's line.

Laid out for Samuel Burnham three acres and more, being part of a grant to Rev. Daniel Little (1773), sold by Little to Hubbard, 1774, and by Hubbard to said Burnham, 1774; beginning at Burnham's southwest corner of fifty acres, adjoining Alewife road, running by Burnham's land to a stake, then south-southeast to James Lord's land, by Lord's land south-southwest to Gideon Walker's land, etc.

Laid out for John Gillpatrick, Jr., ten acres of land on or near



Mousam River, being part of ninescore acres which Adam Cushing bought of Gilbert Brooks, and which was formerly part of the estate of William Taylor, February, 1775.

1777. Moses Hubbard sold to Edmund Currier thirty-seven acres, under Look's grant (1714), "beginning at the north corner of Joseph Storer's home lot, running thence to Deacon Kimball's fence, to Reuben Hatch's line and by his land to Mousam road."

1796. Proprietors granted to Richard Hill (negro) all the "common land on the south side of the brook, between Mr. Little's land and the land he bought of Major Cousens and the country road as it now goes, leaving a road through for black Chance."

Laid out for James Rankin, under Samuel Wheelwright's grant, about nineteen acres, "beginning at a stump standing northerly of a marked tree, commonly called Henry Hart's northerly corner bounds, thence running southeast by said Hart's land," etc.

Laid out for Joel Larrabee seven acres of a lot of eleven acres of land sold to him by the Wheelwright heirs, November, 1797, "beginning at a stake in Thomas Wormwood's line,<sup>1</sup> by the road leading from the post road to Cat Mousam."

December, 1801. Laid out for Jedediah Gooch, under grant to John Littlefield, Jr. (1683), conveyed to Gooch by John Winn in September, 1777, a lot of land bounded as follows: beginning at a stone standing near a marked pine tree, on the eastern side of the highway, by land formerly belonging to John Frieze, then easterly to a rock by Messrs. Larrabee's land, thence by different points to a marked stump in a low, wet piece of ground by the side of the road leading to Mr. Titcomb's, etc., etc., being on the northeast side of Mousam road, so-called.

#### THE SAW-MILLS ON ALEWIVE BROOK.

The precise date when, or by whom, the first saw-mill on Alewife Brook was erected is not known. We find that John Wells conveyed to Joshua and Benjamin Kimball<sup>2</sup> (doubtless, we think, the sons of Caleb, Sr.), September 9, 1740, one-half of the saw-mill on Alewife Brook, together with fifty acres of upland and ten of

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Wormwood owned and occupied a small house and several acres of land on the west side of the road leading to Cat Mousam, nearly opposite the present dwelling house of Charles L. Dresser; an old poplar tree recently standing there was in front of his house. Mr. Benjamin F. Hill is now the owner of the lot and has erected a dwelling-house thereon.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua married Sarah Thompson, July 14, 1742; Benjamin married Lydia Morrison, February 17, 1743.

marsh; the bounds of the upland are thus described: beginning "at the head upon a fresh marsh lately sold to Samuel Littlefield, at a marked tree, thirty-four rods from said brook, thence northeast across said brook sixty-seven rods, the breadth of said land, and thence running down on both sides said brook a southeast course one hundred twenty rods, the length of said upland; the marsh lying on the southeast end of said upland, in several forms, which contain all the marsh from thence to the brook's mouth," according to the return of Nicholas Cole, surveyor, March 12, 1720; "also, half the timber growing or standing on fifty acres of land, beginning at a white oak stump, by a run of water, about eighty or ninety rods west from the aforesaid brook, which empties itself between the two falls into said brook, . . . with privilege of cutting down and carrying any part of the timber on said lot," which was conveyed to said Wells by Nathaniel and Richard Kimball, June 28, 1728.

Joshua died at Cape Breton in 1745. Whether his share of the mill was sold, or operated by a guardian for the benefit of his child or children, we are unable to say; the latter, however, we think was the case. We find recorded on the county records, between the years 1767 and 1791, about thirty deeds of lots of land, situated in Kennebunk, Buxton (chiefly) and York, conveyed to Joshua Kimball, who, we have reason to believe, was the son of Joshua and Sarah.

We are informed that, including the mill above named, there have been four mills erected on this site from time to time. We do not know that either of these was carried away by a freshet or destroyed by the Indians,—the dilapidation of the old necessitated the erection of the new. The fourth was taken down several years ago and the privilege has not since been improved. The late James Smith erected a saw-mill a few rods above the site of the old mills, connected with which was a grist-mill. These he operated for several years before his death, in 1889. The mills (1890) are owned by his estate.

## CHAPTER X.

### KENNEBUNK AS IT WAS IN 1750.

The lists of grants and transfers in preceding chapters enable us to form quite an accurate idea of the progress that had been made toward the settlement of our territory, as well as of the portions of it that had been improved, at the close of the first half of the last century.<sup>1</sup> There seems to be good ground for believing that a majority of the adults residing here at that time were well disposed and industrious citizens; their lands were skillfully cultivated and yielded remunerative crops. Among those who were permanent residents were a blacksmith and a shoemaker and tanner, mechanics essential to the convenience, if not prosperity, of the settlement. Two saw-mills, one on the Kennebunk and one on the Middle Falls on the Mousam, were in operation. Although settlers were mainly seeking homesteads in the interior of the town, the sea-coast and its vicinity were not neglected.

According to Bourne's History, there were in 1750 within our territorial limits thirty inhabited houses, one untenable cabin, a meeting house, two saw-mills in operation and one in a dilapidated condition. Other houses had been built on the territory which had either been destroyed by the Indians or the ravages of time, viz.: that of John Sanders, at the mouth of the Mousam; that of Ephraim Poke, on what is now known as Gillespie's Point; that of John Cheater, near the second creek on the Mousam; that of Rachel Taylor on the sea road (perhaps, however, this was the one occupied by Edward Evans); one or more at the Great Falls, one or more at Cat Mousam or Middle Falls, and probably several others.

Allowing that the thirty families in our township averaged five persons each, our population in 1750 was one hundred fifty. We think this is an under statement. We know that one dwelling-house then standing is not named in the list given by Bourne,—that of Philip Brown,—which stood very near the site of the Granite State House; while workmen were excavating for the cellar of the Granite State House, they discovered the underpinning rocks of Brown's house



and used some of them in the work. There was a saw-mill in operation at the Middle Falls, and it seems strange that there should have been only one dwelling in the whole section known as Cat Mousam and only one on the Plains. Still we have no reliable authority for saying that others were standing in these localities at the above-named date.

Not only were these dwelling-places cold and cheerless, but in common with a large majority of New England homes they were scantily furnished; boxes and chests were quite frequently substituted for chairs and tables, and the floors, for bedsteads, while the supply of kitchen utensils was exceedingly limited. We presume their outfit in the matter of clothing must have been quite primitive, both in fashion and material; boots were hardly known; buskins, made of the skins of animals, more easily obtained than cloth and far better withal, and fastened with strings made of the skins of woodchucks or of eels, formed the winter covering of the feet of the laborer, hunter or traveler; their headgear, of the same materials, was often grotesque beyond description. Books were rarely found within their dwellings, and probably, if they had been attainable, there were very few who could read them. There were no schools, no physician who could be summoned in case of sudden illness, and the church was far from their homes; miles of forest separated neighbors, between whom communication could only be had by means of narrow, winding and rough paths, the traveler along which was not unfrequently intercepted by bears or other wild animals; but, during the continuance of the frequent Indian wars, more to be dreaded than any other danger was the savage foe, stealthy and unfeeling, in ambush near dwellings and pathways, ready to inflict upon the unsuspecting or unarmed white, regardless of age or sex, the most revolting cruelties. At such seasons these pioneers, as they watched the setting sun, day after day, could hardly repress the fear that before its rising their dwellings would be fired by the enemy, their crops destroyed, and that they themselves, if their lives were spared, would be seeking shelter and a hiding place, or would be prisoners on their way to some rendezvous for the safe-keeping of the unfortunates who fell into the hands of the tawny warriors.

These pioneers appear to have been fitted by Nature to endure the hardships and privations and to grapple with the dangers incident to the peculiar position they occupied. They must have been a hardy and a courageous people who could erect their cabins on

"meadow lands," in the vicinity of streams whose waters never reflected the features of civilized man (before their own had been mirrored there), or on clearings made by themselves in a forest which had never echoed the sound of an ax until it was wielded there by their own muscular arms, and who could look upon their unsightly surroundings and their roughly-fashioned dwelling-places and say: "These are our homes, in this wilderness is our life work to be accomplished." Of their antecedents we are entirely ignorant, — perhaps in many cases it is better that we should so remain; but of these facts we have ample evidence, that they battled vigorously and successfully against the adverse circumstances by which they were beset, that they laid foundations whereon succeeding generations have builded in peace, and that to-day we are reaping benefits from the toils and sufferings to which they were subjected. Sad memorials we have of them, in the unlettered, stone-marked mounds that are found in our fields and waste lands, raised by whom or when we have no means of ascertaining, covering the remains of persons whose names are unknown, of whose lives we have no record. They lie in their lone sepulchers unremembered and unregarded; for them the decree, "dust unto dust" has been accomplished, the promise "mortal shall put on immortality" has been fulfilled. These humble and saddening reminders of the past are fast disappearing; many of them have already been leveled with the surrounding earth by the coulter of the plow and are now unrecognizable; those still remaining, before the lapse of many years, will have shared the same fate, and these suggestive memorials will be referred to by coming generations as spots where mounds were visible many years ago, when our great-great-grandfathers were living.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

The early settlers manifested commendable interest in the education of their children, but it was only through persistent efforts that they were enabled to obtain their rightful share of the money appropriated by the town for the support of schools. The first educational movement by the town appears to have been made on the twentieth of March, 1716, when a vote was passed instructing the selectmen to "ewse there Indevor" to procure a schoolmaster, compensation not to exceed £20 and his "diate." In May, 1717, the town voted to hire Mr. Richard Martin as schoolmaster, and to pay him £45 12s. per annum, "on condition that he faithfully performs

the work of a schoolmaster in the town, teaching all the children belonging to the town that shall be sent to him wrighting, sifering or latin according to their capacity." Votes were annually passed, from the date of the foregoing until 1731, providing for the support of schools in different parts of the town west of Little River. By this action the children residing east of the river were virtually excluded from them, in consequence of their geographical position, but the residents on this territory were regularly taxed for their support; of this they complained very justly, but not until 1731 were they enabled to obtain any recognition of their reasonable claim. In this year the town voted "that the families to the eastward of Mousam River be allowed £5 [about \$18] on condition they keep a school for teaching their children to that value or upwards for this year." If the families east of the Mousam availed themselves of the privilege granted by this vote, the school must have been kept in a dwelling-house, either in the Kimball neighborhood or at the Landing, and was probably under the care of the teacher who had charge of the other schools in town. We infer, however, that its condition was not accepted, inasmuch as there was no further provision made by the town for the instruction of these children until 1740. Commencing with this year, when it was voted that the school be kept "four months at Kennebunk and Mousam," appropriations were annually voted for the support of schools in this section. The vote in 1743 was as follows: "If the people living betwixt Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers and Thomas Wormwood, Jr., living on the southerly side of Mousam River, shall provide themselves with a schoolmaster, they shall receive from the town the amount of school tax paid by them." For some reason this vote was not renewed the following year, but whether in consequence of dissatisfaction on the part of our people or of the majority does not appear. The appropriations for this object were always meager and unsatisfactory, much less than actually needed for effective services in this "remote part of the town," as it was termed by our fellow-citizens residing in the more populous section.

#### PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Unsatisfactory treatment in respect to the apportionment of the school money was not the only subject of complaint by our people against the majority. Another cause for dissatisfaction was found in the dictatorial manner in which their applications to the town for



aid in the maintenance of public worship nearer their homes was disposed of. They formed nearly one-sixth of the entire population of Wells and certainly were not behind their southwestern neighbors in business enterprise and general thriftiness. For more than a century they and their predecessors had been taxed for the support of the ministry, as well as for the building of the meeting-house and parsonage and repairs thereon. Many of them had attended the Sunday exercises there, traveling five or seven miles for this purpose, over rough roads, either on foot or horseback. There was, however, no good ground for complaint while the settlers were few and struggling with poverty; it was the best that could be done. But now, when their number and means were greater, they felt that they were able to maintain public worship, for a portion of the time, nearer their homes, and thus enable their families to participate in religious exercises, which hitherto had been necessarily denied them, and they regarded it as reasonable to ask that they might thereafter be exempted from the ministerial tax, in order that they might maintain, in their comparatively isolated district, a separate service for spiritual edification and improvement. A petition to this effect was presented to the town in 1744; the action thereon is thus recorded: "The request of the inhabitants of Kennebunk was put to vote and passed in the negative, relating to their being set off as a precinct." The following spring, however, the town voted £20 old tenor toward paying their minister (at Kennebunk) the past winter; in 1746 the town voted £20 for this object; in 1747, £30; in 1748, £50; in 1749, £60; and in 1750, £60.

In 1746 the freeholders of Kennebunk petitioned that they might be set off to join with a part of Arundel as a parish. A town meeting was called to consider this matter, but it was adjourned without any vote having been taken in reference to it.

Indignant that their petition should have been treated so discourteously, and well satisfied that no good results could ensue from further efforts, in this direction, to obtain a recognition of their rights, the inhabitants of Kennebunk determined to appeal to the General Court of Massachusetts, and in pursuance of this resolution a petition setting forth the merits of their case was prepared and presented to that body in 1749. A town meeting was held on the twenty-second of May "to consider what may be proper to be Done In Making answer to Petition Exhibited into the grate and General Court of a number of the Inhabitants of the town of Wells Living

between Kennebunk and Mousam rivers to be set off as a Distinct Parish," and it was voted that Samuel Wheelwright make answer to said petition, in behalf of the town, and lay before the General Court the reasons why its prayers should not be granted. Wheelwright succeeded in getting the matter postponed to the next session, to be held in 1750. This movement tended to increase rather than allay the excitement on the part of the petitioners. On "sober second thought" the majority were convinced that further resistance would be unavailing, would occasion no inconsiderable labor and expense and would be productive of increased ill-feeling between the eastern and western sections of the town, and, therefore, that it would be sound policy, as well as an act of justice, to withdraw all opposition and accede gracefully to the wishes of those residing "in the remote part of the town." Accordingly a town meeting was held on the fourteenth day of May, 1750, at which it was voted:—"That the inhabitants living between Kennebunk and Mousam rivers, in Wells, with the lands and estates of every kind lying between said Kennebunk and Mousam, to the head of the township, be and is set off as a Distinct Parish, in order to settle the Gospel amongst them."<sup>1</sup>

A petition to the Massachusetts General Court for an act of incorporation was at once prepared and presented by thirty-five men. This petition was favorably acted upon by that body, and the inhabitants of Kennebunk on the fourteenth day of June, 1750, were incorporated as the "Second Congregational Society in Wells."

The names of the petitioners were as follows, probably all the male adults within the parish:

John Butland,	John Gillpatrick, Jr.,	*James Wakefield,
*Richard Boothby,	*Richard Kimball,	Nathaniel Wakefield,
Philip Brown,	*Nathaniel Kimball,	*Jedediah Wakefield,
John Burke,	*Thomas Kimball,	*John Wakefield,
Ichabod Cousens,	*Stephen Larrabee,	*John Wakefield, Jr.
*Thomas Cousens,	*John Mitchell,	John Webber,
*Benjamin Cousens,	*Samuel Shackley,	*Stephen Webber,

<sup>1</sup>At the time this vote was passed there were on the west side of the Mousam three dwelling-houses on the road to the sea, an uninhabited shanty a few rods above the present location of the village bridge and a dwelling-house on the high hill where George T. Jones's house now stands. These estates were not by this vote within the limits of the Second Parish, probably owing to the difficulty in fixing upon a boundary line satisfactory to both parishes. The occupants of these estates and others who came later, between Little River and the Mousam, considered themselves as belonging to the Second Parish prior to 1820; but the Hart families, dwelling on the southern strip of this territory, never severed their connection with the First Parish; all others were assessed by the Second.

Joseph Cousens,	*Stephen Titcomb,	Jonathan Webber,
Samuel Emmons,	Joseph Towne,	*Joseph Wormwood,
John Freas,	Thomas Towne,	*Benjamin Wormwood,
*John Gillpatrick,	*Jesse Towne,	*Richard Thompson.
Samuel Littlefield,	John Maddox,	

A church was consecrated March 14, 1751, and the members thereof were as marked above (\*). Female members were admitted later.

Assuming that each of the petitioners was the head of a family and that the average of each family was five persons, the number of inhabitants between Little River and Kennebunk River in 1750 was one hundred and seventy-five.

On the sixth day of August, in the same year, the parish was partially organized by the choice of clerk and parish committee, and on the twenty-fifth of the same month its organization was completed, and Daniel Little<sup>1</sup> was unanimously invited to become pastor of the society. Mr. Little accepted the invitation, and the twenty-seventh day of March, 1751, was appointed for his ordination.

At a town meeting held February 17, 1755, on petition of the inhabitants of the Second Parish, "to consider to whom the issues and profits of the town ministerial lot belong, whether to the first parish or to both parishes," etc., after a short discussion, the whole matter was referred to a committee, by whom a report was made to the annual meeting held in March as follows: "That we are of the opinion that the town ought to procure 200 acres of land out of the common and undivided lands in the town of Wells, as convenient as may be to the said Second Parish, to be by them used, disposed of or sold to procure them a parsonage or ministerial lot, they giving a full quitclaim of all right to the ministerial land or marsh now in posses-

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Little was born in 1723; he was the son of Dea. Daniel Little, who lived in what was called the "North Precinct, in Haverhill, Mass." It was supposed that the whole of this precinct was within the line of Massachusetts until 1741, when the State line was run between Massachusetts and New Hampshire; it was then found that more than one-half of it, including Deacon Little's farm, was within the New Hampshire line. This part of the precinct and a portion of Amesbury, which also fell within the New Hampshire line, were incorporated by the Legislature of New Hampshire (1749) with the name of Hampstead.

Mr. Little was ordained on the twenty-seventh day of March, 1751. Mr. Jeffords, of the First Parish, preached the sermon. The attendance was very large; the people of the Second Parish were there in full force, the First Parish was largely represented and large delegations were present from the neighboring towns. As is said to have been the general custom on such occasions in those days, a number of tents were erected in the vicinity of the meeting-house, where were sold eatables in great variety and where "the ardent" could be obtained in any quantity.



sion of the First Parish." This recommendation by the committee was adopted, and in pursuance thereof the proprietors granted to the Second Parish, March 14, 1757, two hundred acres of land. The conditions of this grant were not acceptable to the Second Parish, inasmuch as they required that the land or the proceeds of its sale should be used only "to procure them a parsonage or ministerial lot," and several years elapsed before they succeeded in obtaining the withdrawal of this objectionable restriction. The grant was laid out in May, 1772, on Kennebunk River and bounded by lands of Samuel Burnham, Samuel and Israel Kimball and a road leading to Coxhall.

## CHAPTER XI.

### HARRISEKET, THE VILLAGE, CAT MOUSAM AND DAY'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

If the uptracing of all matters connected with the history or literature of the "days of yore" continues to be pursued as diligently as it is at the present time, it is not impossible that the etymology of the name Harriseeket may, in the near or distant future, be satisfactorily determined; but we are of the opinion that its orthography must be established by "mutual consent of the parties interested."

James Gillpatrick, as elsewhere stated, built the house formerly occupied by the late Charles H. P. Storer about 1735. It was originally built nearer the river, where it remained a few years. We presume it was the first dwelling-house erected on the east side of the Branch River,<sup>1</sup> in the section known as Harriseeket. Several houses, before this date, had been erected on the west side of the river, or in West Harriseeket. Nathan Littlefield, one of the former proprietors of the first saw-mill built on Kennebunk River, lived there as early as 1670. His homestead was only a short distance from said river on the south side of the road; we think other Littlefield families lived in the immediate vicinity.<sup>2</sup> Roger, son of Nathan, succeeded his father on the homestead. He married Anna Ricker

<sup>1</sup> Usually described in ancient deeds and grants as the "northern branch of Little River," although often called the Branch River; from this river that portion of Wells known as the "Branch" derives its name. The mill-sites, heavy growth of pine and other timber, as well as tracts of farming land, found in this section, induced immigrants to locate there at an early date. In no part of Wells, at this day, are the inhabitants more distinguished for industry, intelligence and thriftiness than are those residing at the "Branch." It will be understood that the larger part of the Harriseeket settlement on the west side of the river is still a part of Wells, while the part on the east side, much smaller territorially and considerably less in population, is in Kennebunk. Whence the name Harriseeket or Harryseekit, as sometimes written, we do not know. Several towns in New England have a small district within their borders so called; perhaps some of the pioneer settlers here came from a hamlet thus named, giving to their new home the title by which their old one was known.

<sup>2</sup> There is a graveyard on or near the aforetime Abner Fisk farm, frequently called the "Littlefield Burying Ground," where are interred many members of families of this name.

in 1771 and had two sons, Joseph and Reuben, between whom he divided a large tract of land which was owned by him on the north-east side of the river, extending from the river to the Sanford road. Reuben built a house on the south side of the Branch road near its junction with the Harriseeket. Joseph built a house and barn nearly opposite on the north side. It is not known what became of the first-named house. It was not occupied by the builder; he was a seaman and died unmarried; the barn was burned when Edward Brown's buildings were destroyed by fire on the present Haven Kimball farm. The buildings erected by Joseph were torn down a few years ago by Alfred, who now owns the farm.

Joseph Taylor built a house near by about 1700, as did Joseph Day, the first with that surname who settled in Wells. Capt. Samuel Jefferds erected a house on what was termed "Sandy Hill" about the middle of the eighteenth century; his brother Simon<sup>1</sup> built a house on or very near the site of the present homestead of George Jefferds before 1760. Samuel, having sold his house on "Sandy Hill" to "Cooper Mitchell," by whom it was removed to the Sanford road, put up new buildings near the location of "Pike's mill," and here kept a "tavern" which was in operation about the time of the Revolutionary War. It was much frequented and was considered an excellent inn. The dwelling-house is now used as a shed.

The Branch River, although a small stream, afforded a desirable mill site as viewed by the early settlers, which was improved as early as 1670. Nathan Littlefield and others built a dam on the stream and erected a saw-mill about that date, a few rods below the bridge and near where the Gillpatrick house afterward stood. When the bridge was built we are unable to say, but we think it must have been the first, or among the first, east of Cole's Corner. Its location has never been changed, although it has been much improved by raising it several feet. We are told that Simon Jefferds built a dam and grist-mill on a small fall a short distance up stream, but when or how long it stood, or how profitable it was, we have no means of ascertaining. The Littlefield's dam and mill must have been destroyed before 1688, as we find that William Sayer rebuilt the dam that year and was to have erected a fulling

<sup>1</sup> Capt. Samuel and Capt. Simon were sons of Rev. Samuel Jefferds, the minister of the only church in Wells, Dec., 1725, - Feb., 1752. William Jefferds, the very popular landlord of the tavern on "Tavern Hill" in the village, was the son of Capt. Samuel, and was born Jan. 19, 1753. His father, a clothier as well as inn-keeper, operated a fulling mill which stood on the falls now improved by Pike.



mill the same year, but the undertaking was abandoned on account of the breaking out of King William's War (1689).

When mills were in operation here and on Little River, it was found to be absolutely necessary that there should be a better way to reach the eastern settlements than that by the sea, which was available only to those who traveled on foot or on horseback; its three ferries and its subjection to the tides rendered it inconvenient, if not dangerous. A new path was laid out, commencing at Cole's Corner, or the "town's end," running northwesterly over Cole's Hill to the falls where Pike's mill now stands, then turning in a northerly direction and passing through Harriseeket to the present intersection of the Harriseeket with the Sanford road, then turning and pursuing a southeasterly course to and across the Mousam to the present site of the Unitarian Church, thence, northerly, to and across the Kennebunk River, very nearly, throughout, as the road now goes. This was, successively, "the path leading to Mousam," "the Saco path" and the "upper way." The road from York to the eastern settlements was through a part of Kittery (now Berwick), Cape Neddock, Ogunquit, Wells Village, the Harriseeket road and the before-named way over the Mousam and Kennebunk, thence to Saco and Falmouth. This was the great mail route from Portsmouth, N. H., to Falmouth (Portland). Over this road Joseph Barnard, in January, 1787, drove the first mail and passenger wagon<sup>1</sup> (drawn by a span of horses) that had ever met the "astonished gaze" of the good people whose doors were passed, who undoubtedly felt that the "world *is* moving," when a turnout like this had succeeded to the mail-carrier on horseback, with a pair of saddlebags as the depository of valuable documents that had been placed in his custody.

We are unable to state when the "upper road" from Dover to South Berwick, to Doughty's Falls (North Berwick), thence through Wells, over Maryland Ridge, over the Branch road by Wells's mill, past the Branch meeting houses<sup>2</sup> to Harriseeket and Kennebunk, first became a mail stage route. Joseph Hobbs's tavern, at the Branch, was called a stage tavern.<sup>3</sup> We have searched in vain for printed

<sup>1</sup> Willis calls it a "passenger wagon." Probably, however, as it was near mid-winter, it was a wagon body on runners.

<sup>2</sup> We give the modern names of these localities, for the reason that they will be better understood at the present time.

<sup>3</sup> This building was torn down about 1880 by Ivory Goodwin, the present owner of the Hobbs homestead, who has erected a dwelling-house and other buildings on the opposite side of the road. Hobbs was a blacksmith, an energetic business man, was part owner of the iron works near the Mousam Landing, and obtained several grants of land on or near the Mousam. He was born 1737, died 1816; he married Huldah Littlefield, November, 1774.

or oral testimony that would give us correct information respecting these stage routes. We think it improbable that there were daily lines of stages from Boston to Portland over both, the "lower," by way of Newburyport, Portsmouth and York, and the "upper," by way of Haverhill, Exeter, Dover and the Berwicks, prior to 1812; an old employee of the "Portland and Portsmouth Stage Company" was quite sure that, for several years, the stages ran alternately, from Portsmouth by way of York, and from Dover by way of Maryland Ridge and the Berwicks. We cannot do better than accept this explanation in the absence of any other more reliable. It does not, however, appear to be quite satisfactory.

When saw-mills had been erected within the townships of Sanford and Shapleigh, and lumber was manufactured in sufficient quantities not only to supply the wants of the inhabitants of these towns, but to afford a surplus for the market, a portion of this excess was drawn over the Harriseeket road to Wells Landing.<sup>1</sup> The connection of important roads with that on which they lived, their mill sites, their advantageous position between two thriving villages, and the fact that this road was a part of the great highway from Boston to Portland and the eastern part of the Province, naturally inspired the Harriseeket people with "great expectations" in regard to the future growth and prosperity of their vicinage, and not until 1805, when the road from Tavern Hill to Cole's Corner, often called the Turnpike, was completed, were these pleasing anticipations entirely relinquished. This new road was strenuously opposed by the Harriseeket and Maryland Ridge residents, and when it had been built they criticised pretty sharply the bills for its construction,— "the enormous and unnecessary expenditure for a miserable path through the heath." For many years the people on the upper route did not become fully reconciled to this darkener of their prospects, confessedly infinitely better for the great whole, but, still, "the old road was well enough."

When, in 1755, the Acadians, as they were called (French inhabitants of Nova Scotia), were, as a matter of expediency, forcibly removed from their homes by the English, taken to the New England Colonies and there scattered among the settlements on the Atlantic Coast, six of these expatriated unfortunates were allotted to the town of Wells,—a husband, wife and two children, also two

<sup>1</sup> Much the larger part of this surplus was taken to Kennebunk, where there was constant demand for every description of lumber, and where, of course, it could be disposed of more readily.

children belonging to another family, probably orphans, connections of the first-named family. A house was built for them by the town, on the north side of the Branch road, quite near its intersection with the Harriseeket road. The lot laid out by the town for the accommodation of these exiles in 1755 was sold to Joseph Gillpatrick, by John Wheelwright, in 1781; it contained one-half of an acre, twenty rods by four, the bounds "beginning at a stake set in the ground at the Heath,<sup>1</sup> so-called, near the crotch of the roads" (on the line of a wheel path now leading from the Branch road to the Sanford road). There were then no vestiges remaining of the house built for the Acadians and the lot was covered with pitch pines. Gillpatrick, who was a grandson of the pioneer James, put up a house and other buildings on this lot and lived there until about 1804. He advertised the lot and buildings for sale in 1803 and removed not long afterward to the northern part of the town. What became of the buildings at Harriseeket we do not know; the lot is now again covered with pitch pines. Wheelwright also sold to Gillpatrick, in 1701, two acres near the above-named lot, the bounds "beginning at a pitch pine tree on the southeast side of the County road that leads to Kennebunk, thence by the road, southwest, thirty rods, thence east-southeast," etc. Very little is known concerning the subsequent history of these Acadians, but there is no evidence that they remained many years in Wells. It has been stated on authority of a tradition that the father of the family was the ancestor of the Mitchells on Sanford road. This statement, it appears, is incorrect.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Kennebunk Heath," as called in former days, was a wide strip of low land commencing at Sanford road, near the guide-post at the junction of the Sanford and Harriseeket roads, running southeasterly across the "Turnpike" to "William Wormwood's land and to Noah Wells's land." That portion of this tract lying on both sides of the Turnpike is appropriately described by these words at this day. "Rocky Hill, on Kennebunk Heath," is spoken of in a surveyor's description of lots of land on the western side of the Turnpike.

<sup>2</sup>This family traces its lineage to a man named Mitchell (his christian name is not known with certainty, but it is supposed that it was John), who was a soldier in the army led by Wolfe at the capture of Quebec in 1759, and was engaged in that battle. He left the army shortly afterward and settled in York, Maine, where he married. He remained in York several years; he then moved to Canada, where he spent the remainder of his days. His son became a resident of Ogunquit, in Wells, and was the father of John Mitchell, known as "Cooper Mitchell," because of his vocation, and to distinguish him from other Mitchells in town with the same christian name. He bought a tract of land near the northern terminus of the Harriseeket road, and put up a house a few rods west of the site of that occupied by Alfred Littlefield (whose mother was a daughter of Mitchell), and a shop near where the dwelling-house recently occupied by E. Furber Mitchell stands. This house was made up of that of Capt. Samuel Jeffers, hauled from Sandy Hill, and an addition by its new owner. Cooper John had several children, one of whom, James, was a tin-man, who came in possession of his father's property, tore down the old house and erected a new one a few rods east of the old one about 1830, which was afterward owned and occupied by Alfred Littlefield. E. V. Mitchell, youngest son of James Mitchell, has a neat residence on the site of the before-mentioned shop and holds the principal part of his father's estate, which, however, he does not occupy at the present time.



A short distance below Mitchell's, on the south side of the road and perhaps an eighth of a mile therefrom, commences a slight elevation of land which continues for a distance of one-fourth of a mile or more. \* This has been known for many years as "Nigger Ridge." It derives its name from the fact that between the years 1790 and 1800 about a dozen blacks, who had been held as slaves by citizens of Wells, were emancipated, erected huts and became permanent residents on this ridge, which had probably been granted to them by the town of Wells. Here were Tom and Phillis,<sup>1</sup> Sharper<sup>2</sup> and Hannah Simon, Primas and the younger Phillis, Salem and Peg, Cato, Dinah and others. Probably they obtained a livelihood by making and selling baskets and brooms, raising a few vegetables, jobbing for persons in the neighboring villages and by successful appeals to the benevolent. There are a number of graves on the Ridge, indicating that here these servants found their final earthly resting places. These little mounds are the only vestiges of this settlement. The tract of land formerly inhabited by these manumitted blacks is now covered with trees and bushes. Thomas Bassett or "Old Tom," as he was called, was the last survivor of this colony. With Phillis, for many years, he was contented and happy, but Phillis died and Peg was a widow; the range for the selection of another helpmate was narrowed down so that he must lead a life of loneliness or take Peg for the partner of his joys and sorrows. It is said that after this matrimonial connection he was no longer lonely. Peg was a spitfire, noisy and uneasy, and when, a few years later, she died, Tom could not but feel that her rest beneath the sod secured to him peace and comfort above it.

"Old Tom" was a quiet, inoffensive person. The birch brooms with which he supplied the housewives of his time, in this vicinity, were very popular for rough work; they were somewhat heavy, but strongly and neatly made. He was kindly treated by every one. To the salutation, "How do you do, Tom?" his invariable answer was, "I don' no, sar, een'a'most as well as I can." "How is Phillis?" "Well, sar, she tries to do about as well as she can." He was a regular attendant at church, and to the best of his ability performed his whole duty to God and man. But we must not neglect to record the fact that Tom was an *artist*; he was the possessor of a fiddle and could play half a dozen dancing tunes thereon. His services were

<sup>1</sup>"Negro servants" of Capt. James Littlefield, married in 1776.

<sup>2</sup>Sharper, "Negro servant" to Joseph Hill, and Hannah Simon, an Indian, married in 1744.

frequently in request at social dances and at huskings; at all the old-time General Musters, in "all the region roundabout," he was present and always well patronized; young folks from the village occasionally visited his hut, and, aided by his artistic efforts, enjoyed a regular "breakdown" on the greensward. When his last sickness came he was well cared for by a white nurse. It is believed that he was fully one hundred years old when he died, June 8, 1831. Rev. Mr. Wells attended his funeral; his remarks on this occasion were exceedingly appropriate. The ladies in the neighborhood were present, but not men enough to convey his coffin to the grave without the assistance of Mr. Wells.

With his decease the race became extinct in this town and, we think, there has not been a colored family who remained as permanent residents since. Richard Hill, a black man, resided on a lot opposite the Ridge before the existence of the colony above-named. A negro woman, "Chance," had also a cabin very near to Hill's. In 1796 Hill petitioned the proprietors for a grant of land and obtained a number of acres adjoining and embracing the lot on which he had been a squatter. Hill's grant, after his death, came into possession of Richard Dutton,<sup>1</sup> an Irishman, a seaman by profession, who owned land adjoining on which he had lived with his wife. His contemporaries represented the Duttons as queer characters. One Michael Durgin,<sup>2</sup> said to have been otherwise than exemplary, was a frequent visitor of theirs; the notorious Henry Tufts, peddler, doctor and preacher, was entertained there while visiting in this town. His house and barn were a few rods east of the dwelling-house now owned by Nathaniel Bragdon, next below the Little place, elsewhere noted. He sold his farm to Joseph Thomas, a lawyer, who put it in charge of Enoch Bragdon. Although Mr. Bragdon performed all his duties well and faithfully, still, after a few years'

<sup>1</sup> The Selectmen of Wells, on the petition of Dutton, laid out a private way for his use, "beginning at the road leading to Kennebunk about thirteen rods N. W. of Richard Hill's house, thence running northeast eighteen rods through said Richard Hill's land to common lands, thence on the same course twenty-seven rods to said Dutton's land. Said road was laid out 2 rods on the N. W. side of the line."

<sup>2</sup> Michael Durgin was a citizen of Wells before 1796, in which year he was married to Anna Pope. In 1815 he traveled about the country selling an apple paring machine, which was patented, and it is understood he claimed to be the inventor and patentee. He manufactured them in Wells, it is said. We have seen parts of this machine, which in all essential points, fork, knife and wheel, appears to be precisely like the paring machines now so extensively used. Excepting the knife and fork it was made of wood and consequently was not sufficiently strong to bear, for any length of time, the strain to which it was subjected. Many of them were sold in this and neighboring towns.

experience in amateur farming, Mr. Thomas, about 1830, sold the place to Nathaniel Bragdon, son of Enoch. Stephen Thacher, judge of probate for a number of years, owned several acres of land on the northerly side of the road adjoining Little's land and also several acres nearly opposite (on the south side of the road), on which was a barn. Mr. Thacher's specialty was merino sheep. Whether it was a success financially we have not learned. Thacher removed to Lubec, and we think the whole of the Thomas and Thacher land came into the possession of Nathaniel Bragdon, son of Nathaniel senior. The Dutton buildings were torn down and new ones were put up a few rods westerly, which have been much improved by the present owner. There was a small building many years ago southeast of the Dutton land, occupied by John Cousens (grandson of Major Nathaniel), and one nearer the village occupied by one Maddox. Each of these was torn down before 1830. Next below these was the two-story house of Nathaniel Mendum, erected between the years 1800 and 1803; below this, on the north side of the road, was the Dimon Gillpatrick house, built about the same time as the Mendum house, owned later by Asa Clark and George W. Larrabee; near to that was the John Low house, built before 1800, owned and occupied by the Rev. Joshua A. Swan.<sup>1</sup> Near the bridge, on the lot occupied by a boarding-house, stood Edmund Lord's blacksmith shop. The George Jefferds store was moved across the street in 1827. This forms, we think, a correct list of houses standing, or that had been built, occupied and afterward demolished, on the Sanford road from its junction with the Harriseeket road down to the Mousam bridge, up to the year 1820. The Sanford road, in 1812, is referred to by the selectmen of Wells, in an official document, as the "post road to Berwick," while that leading to Wells was called "the post road to York." On this highway, at the easterly end of "Nigger Ridge," were two houses, one of which was occupied by Jacob Blaisdell and the other by a Widow Wilson.<sup>2</sup> There was also a house in that vicinity, nearer the village, occupied by John Norman, a stone mason. All of these houses, however, have disappeared. Then followed, on the north side of the road, the house owned by Daniel Durrell, which has stood many years; we do not know by whom it was built, but the owner for a long time was Capt. John

<sup>1</sup> Afterward given as a parsonage to the Unitarian Society by his widow.

<sup>2</sup> Her husband was a seaman. Wilson and Noble were partners in some land purchases. The family is extinct in this town. Benjamin Wilson married Hannah Fernald, July, 1788. Hosea Wilson married Betsey Fernald, October, 1789. Nathaniel Cousens, Jr., married Eunice Wilson, 1789.



Hovey; it has been occupied by George Perkins and Adoniram Handson. Next came the large dwelling-house built by George W. Wallingford, about 1810, now owned and occupied by William E. Barry; next to this was the blacksmith shop, long since torn down or removed, which was formerly occupied by Nathaniel Mendum, agent of the Portland and Portsmouth Stage Company, and afterward by other persons; then came the old Gillpatrick blacksmith shop, a part of which was the shop belonging to the iron works built on the lower dam in 1776. When business was relinquished there one-half of the shop was torn down and the other half removed (1820) to Tavern Hill, additions made, and it was operated by Dimon Gillpatrick (son of Richard) and his sons, Richard and Daniel, until about 1877.<sup>1</sup> It was torn down in 1887. This brings us to Tavern Hill, and we have learned what buildings had been erected, moved or torn down and were still standing on the road in 1820. On Tavern Hill, at the above-named date, was Jefferds's Tavern, of which we have previously spoken, and adjoining the driveway on its south side was the dwelling of Nathaniel Jefferds, son of Major William. This estate now belongs to the heirs of Samuel Clark. Nathaniel Jefferds married Mary Folsom, of Exeter, N. H., 1801. As early as 1774, very soon after the bridge had been moved up stream to near its present location, Richard Gillpatrick, who had served his apprenticeship to James Kimball, put up a blacksmith shop on the spot which is now the commencement of Brown Street, facing the north; a year later, in the rear of this, facing the river street or the old post road, he built a small dwelling-house, and about two years later still disposed of his blacksmith business to Dominicus Lord and put up a small store near the shop, where he kept for sale a stock of groceries. These buildings were removed during the last decade of the eighteenth century and a large dwelling-house was erected by Mr. Gillpatrick midway between the river street and Nathaniel Jefferds's house, which was

<sup>1</sup> Frequent mention has been made in the history of Wells and Kennebunk of the "Coburn house," but no such house is named as standing in 1750 or later. The timber house is doubtless the one referred to. This stood on the lot known in late years as the "Factory Field," as Cousens moved therefrom and into his new house on the west side of the river in 1758, and Coburn came here about that time. Coburn was married to Mrs. Esther Rollins, of Wells, September 25, 1750, by Rev. Mr. Jefferds. It appears that he either lost or neglected to obtain a certificate of his marriage, and after the death of the officiating clergyman, in 1758, it was thought necessary to procure a certificate from the persons present at the ceremony. This was sworn to and recorded on the town records. Coburn was one of the petitioners for calling a meeting of the second parish, to take into consideration the expediency of building a new meeting-house on the county road (1771); but in 1773 when the pews were assigned his name does not occur. He had either left town or hired seats of Joseph Storer.

occupied by him many years. After the purchase of this property by the manufacturing company, Brown Street was laid out through Gillpatrick's field, rendering it necessary to move the house back several feet and facing the new street; here it was long known as the "old boarding-house." It was destroyed by fire in December, 1884.

We think there is no record or tradition which will enable us precisely to fix the date when the village bridge was first located near its present position. (In speaking of this bridge and of the buildings in close proximity to it, it must be remembered that when the bridge was rebuilt in 1832 it was moved up stream seventeen feet; that is, a band was taken from the southerly end of the old saw-mill and transferred to its northerly end, equivalent to its removal seventeen feet up stream.) The chief testimony we have bearing on this question is contained in the following extracts from conveyances by Joel Larrabee to William Jefferds, in 1804. Larrabee bought of the heirs of Samuel Wheelwright eleven acres of a grant of one hundred and fifty acres made by the town to their father in 1778. Under this grant Larrabee conveyed to Jefferds one acre of land which was laid out as follows: "beginning on the southwest side of Mousam River, at the brink or edge of said river, where the southwest abutment of the former bridge stood, near to the east end of the said Jefferds's old shop, thence running two rods to the old road, then by said road on the northeast side thereof N. W. ten rods, then N. E. to said river and falls five rods, one hundred square rods of land and falls."

Larrabee also conveyed to Jefferds, under same grant, two and one-sixteenth acres of land, which were laid out as follows: "beginning at the easterly side of Mousam River, at the easterly end of the old Iron Works dam and on the westerly side of the highway running down by said river; thence running N. E. and N. W by said highway sixty-six rods to the new bridge."

These extracts conclusively establish the fact that the road on the west side of the river leading from the present main street to the lot on which Ferguson's machine shops stood is a "county road," and was for many years, as far down as the lower dam, a part of the public highway leading from York to Saco. In a bond for a deed—Nathaniel Jefferds to James K. Remich—made on the last day of March, 1825, by which Jefferds agreed to convey to said Remich all his right and interest in mill privileges on the Mousam River, in the

village of Kennebunk, including also one-half of the factory field on the east side of said river, this sentence occurs: "excepting any rights of road over either of the above-described premises." This bond was written by the late Edward E. Bourne. No exception of this kind is made in a bond of the same date—Edmund Pearson to James K. Remich—by which Pearson agreed to convey to said Remich all his right and interest in the old grist-mill and tannery (at the western end of the lower dam) and the water power and land appertaining thereto.<sup>1</sup>

Now returning to the bridge, we are of the opinion that, in 1779, it was not at or near its present location. "In 1763 there was laid out for John Storer (under grant to Joseph Storer, 1714) ten acres of meadow on the western side of Mousam River, at the bridge over said river and adjoining the highway, running southeast by the river forty-eight rods," etc. etc. The description leaves no room for doubt that these ten acres embrace the sites of the old machine shops and also the low land bordering on the river below them. This meadow, in whole or in part, was sold to William Jefferds and Richard Gillpatrick about 1774 or 1775. If the bridge had been built in 1759, it may safely be assumed that it would not have been located so far down stream, and that the inconvenient and unsightly deflection, rendered necessary by the original position of the mill, would have been avoided.<sup>2</sup> There is good reason to believe that the bridge was removed to near its present position during the years 1771 and 1772,<sup>3</sup> before the lower dam and Gillpatrick's iron works were erected, and that Storer, for his own convenience (and perhaps as an inducement for the change of location) opened a way from the new bridge to the county road, intersecting the road near Scotchman's Brook, at the same time occupying as a mill yard a good portion of that part of the county road rendered unessential by his action in laying out a new way. The bridge was repaired, recovered, etc., in 1801; in 1832 it was rebuilt at a cost of twenty-four hundred dollars;<sup>4</sup> in 1864 it was repaired, recovered,

<sup>1</sup> These lands, with others by Joseph Storer and Richard Gillpatrick, were transferred by Remich to a company afterward incorporated as the "Mousam Manufacturing Company."

<sup>2</sup> This deflection was materially improved in 1832 and lessened still more in 1882.

<sup>3</sup> There is no evidence extant that the road to the bridge (on the west side of the river) and across the river to the old road on its eastern side was ever discontinued.

<sup>4</sup> A part, if not the whole, of this sum was borrowed by the town for four and a half per cent. per annum.



etc., at a cost of eight hundred six dollars and thirteen cents; in 1882 it was rebuilt as an iron bridge and the position slightly changed.

The grist-mill which was built in 1759 was burned down a few years subsequently. When this was rebuilt is not known, but the site selected leads to the supposition that it was after the removal of the bridge (1772-1775).

The first building to be seen by one going down the river street in 1820 was a store, quite near the bridge, built by Major Jefferds for his son George, who traded there until 1814, when he became landlord of the Jefferds House. He was succeeded by Samuel Ross, who improved the first floor as a store and the upper floor as a dwelling-house until about 1827, when the building was removed by the Manufacturing Company to the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, where it now stands; next to this was Nathaniel Jefferds's cloth-dressing establishment ("No. 2 Water Street," as he designated it). The factory on the west side of the river covers the sites of these buildings. Then, lower down, in close proximity to the lower dam, were to be seen remains of the old bridge, of Gillpatrick's iron works and Maj. William Jefferds's cloth-dressing shop. This was the first bridge built over the Mousam; the iron works and clothier's shop covered its abutment on the west side of the river; then, perhaps a rod below, was the "new grist-mill," built and furnished, in part, with the materials and machinery that belonged to the grist-mill which stood on what had been known for years as the "island," but which has now been connected with the mainland by the Leather Board Company. This company utilized the island by erecting upon it buildings necessary for the prosecution of their business; then came an extensive tannery, built by Edmund Pearson in 1811, which he occupied until he sold his establishment to the Manufacturing Company; the bark house afterward formed the main part of J. H. Ferguson's machine shop, planing mill, etc.

Returning, we go along the "old path" and the only traveled road from east to west for a century, until about 1780, and we find the house of Dominicus Lord, near the site of the dwelling-house of Rev. Mr. Worth; a short distance beyond, the house of Joseph Thomas, now in possession of the heir to George Mendum's estate. Between the years 1788 and 1790 this house was framed and boarded by Nathaniel Cousens, Jr., son of Major Nathaniel; it was afterward purchased and finished by Mr. Thomas, who resided there

until his death (in 1830, at the age of 67); a few rods above this was Dr. Emerson's house, which was built between 1795 and 1800. It was his homestead until his death, in 1851 (at the age of 86 years).<sup>1</sup> It was for many years the homestead of Joseph Parsons, by whose heirs it is now occupied. This brings us to the Nathaniel Cousens house, already noticed, and also near the point where travelers, in days of yore, when there were no mill ponds on the Mousam, used to turn down to the fording place across the river, in later days (until 1669) known as the "upper wading place."

There was not a long interval of time between the opening of Major Jefferds's house as a tavern (1790-92) and the building of the several houses for Low, Mendum and Gillpatrick; before the completion of the latter house it was apparent that a straight road was needed from the bridge to Mendum's house, where it would intersect the Sanford road. The land necessary for this purpose was at once thrown out by the abutters, and it became a traveled road before it was officially laid out,—if, indeed, it was ever laid out officially, except as a part of the road from the bridge to Gould's Causeway, or "Causey" as it was generally called.

In 1796 the road from the bridge by Jefferds's Tavern, and thence west and southwest to the sea road, and thence to Henry Hart's land and by the "Great Swamp," so-called, to "Gould's Causey," was laid out on the petition of William Wormwood and others, and seven years later the road from Cole's Corner to Tavern Hill greatly improved the facilities for travel to Wells and beyond. We believe the "post road to York" and the "post road to Berwick" have not been materially changed, between the Mousam and Little Rivers, since the last-named date.

Retracing our steps to the vicinity of the western boundary of the town, we find northwesterly from Harriseeket the "Day District" (school district No. 12), the pioneer settler of which was a son or grandson of Joseph Day, who settled at Harriseeket in 1720. Adjoining Day's, northerly, is the Cat Mousam District, the easterly part of which, bounded by the Mousam, was the first settled. Benjamin Stevens, son of Moses, Sr.,<sup>2</sup> as early as 1745 put up a

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Emerson came to this town in 1790 and was married to Olive Barrell, of York, in 1791. He had an excellent reputation as a physician, and an extensive practice while able to perform the labor incident to an active member of his profession.

<sup>2</sup> Moses Stevens, it is believed, was the first person with this surname who became a permanent resident of Wells, but we are unable to say at what date he took up his abode there or where he had lived previously. He is named as one of

dwelling-house on the estate now held by the heirs of Orlow Stevens. He bought of John Wheelwright part of one hundred and fifty acres which the town granted to the heirs of Samuel Wheelwright. He bought of Mrs. Bulman, of York, guardian, January, 1748, one-eighth part of a certain saw-mill now standing on the river Mousam in Wells, with one-eighth of all privileges, which her husband, Dr. Alexander Bulman, bought of one Gooch, of said Wells. Next came the house of Joseph Taylor, on the estate now held by George T. Jones, nearly equidistant from Cat Mousam Mills and the village bridge; he built on his grant about the same time that Stevens put up buildings on his lot as above stated. About 1755 John Cousens,<sup>1</sup> son of Ichabod, occupied the estate afterward held by Ephraim Allen and heirs of Obediah Hatch. In 1783 Moses Littlefield, son of Samuel, moved from the farm (later owned by John Walker) in Lower Alewife to Cat Mousam, and built a one-story house near the road, a short distance northeast of the house where Samuel Littlefield, grandson of Moses, now lives. This was built by Moses and his son Aaron in 1806, first occupied by them in 1807, and the old house was moved and made an outbuilding. The western part of the district, known as the "Webber District," was settled later, in the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The road leading from the Sanford road, a few rods beyond its junction with the Harriseeket, to the Middle or Cat Mousam Mill, across the river, and thence to the county road, was laid out in 1761. Not long afterward Obediah Hatch put up a house about half a mile from the Sanford road, where he lived several years, afterward tear-

the proprietors of all the common lands in Wells in 1716. Moses was probably a brother to John, who was in Arundel in 1720. *Bradbury* says he had three sons, Moses, Benjamin and Jeremiah. Moses married Lucy Wheelwright. They were, in 1758, in possession of their rights in the common lands of Wells, which they sold to their nephew Benjamin. Benjamin, son of John, "married Abigail Littlefield and lived in Wells." We know nothing concerning his after life. "Jeremiah married and lived in Wells." We find that "Jeremiah Stevens of Wells, yeoman, leased of the executors of the will of John Hill, one-half of the Mansion house formerly occupied by said Hill, together with one hundred acres of land and one-half of a saw-mill at Maryland, belonging to his estate, for four years from the fifteenth day of November, 1750," paying therefor an annual rent of about fifty dollars.

Benjamin, of Mousam, is designated as a "trader" in Mrs. Bulman's bond for a deed, before referred to. He married Mary Raven in 1735. He bought of John Mitchell, in 1756, ten acres of land, beginning at a heap of stones in Mitchell's line, forty rods from Mitchell's first bound, on Mousam river, then northwest forty rods, etc. The common rights, purchased of Moses and Lucy in 1758, were laid out in 1772, "beginning at Mousam river, at the northerly corner of Samuel Mitchell's land and running S. S. W. by his land, near to Rankin's creek, on road leading to Sanford, second Mousam mill lot," etc.

<sup>1</sup> John Cousens married Sarah Davis, 1779.



ing this down and building a larger house a few rods north of it. He appears to have been much respected in his neighborhood and in the parish and was one of the deacons of the Second Parish many years. He was born April 5, 1730, married Jerusha Davis, of Wells, in 1757, and had six children, John C., Daniel, Obediah, Rhoda, Mary and Abigail. Deacon Hatch died November 23, 1819, aged 89 years. John C. remained on the homestead until his death by drowning in crossing the Mousam. Daniel built a house nearly opposite his father's, near the site of that now owned by James B. Whitten. The paternal mansion was burned many years ago and Daniel's house was removed, but the sites can be verified by the cellars and scattering apple trees. Two of the daughters, unmarried, reached the advanced ages of ninety-four and one hundred. When young, they used to attend Parson Little's meeting at the Landing, walking the entire distance and nearly the whole way through a forest-lined road, not excepting that portion of it which passed through the main village of to-day.

Besides the three houses above named and the house put up by Joel Stevens about 1774, still standing a short distance north of Whitten's, we have no record that any other was ever built on this road. The first two have long since been demolished. Stevens's house remains in possession of his descendants. Daniel Hatch's, we think, was taken down and another built on or near its site. The land adjoining the southern part of this road we presume is too sandy for profitable farming. Still the road is a much needed one and when in good repair makes a very pleasant drive. One would hardly believe, from present appearances, that it was laid out three rods wide.

We have given the names of the first permanent settlers in the Cat Mousam District, according to the best information we can obtain, but there must have been temporary residents, we think, at an earlier day. During the twenty years from 1736 to 1756 there was a saw-mill in operation the larger part of the time, and it is fair to presume that the men employed in and about the mill erected shanties for their own accommodation and for the protection of their cattle; but in support of this rational supposition we find no satisfactory evidence. That men worked there a good portion of the time during these twenty years, we know, but whether with or without families, whether their homes were near their place of employment or at an inconvenient distance therefrom, we are left to conjecture. The district made very fair progress in population after the close of

the Revolutionary War. A few houses, in addition to those we have mentioned, were built on the Cat Mousam road between 1760 and 1785.

Thomas Wormwood built a house and outbuildings on the northern side of Rankin's Brook, on the west side of the road; the buildings were removed long ago and the homestead acres, after having had several proprietors, have recently come into possession of Benjamin J. Hill. The Philip Hatch house was erected about 1794, in which year he married Mary Butland.

The dwelling-house long known as the Major Cousens house, built in 1758, and a barn and shed belonging thereto were, in 1775, the only buildings on the west side of the Mousam within the present limits of the village in that direction. On April 19, 1775,—the day so memorable in our national history,—the late Dominicus Lord, who had purchased the lot now known as Tavern Hill, commenced the work of clearing it,—felling trees, drawing logs to the mill, cutting and piling wood, etc. It was on the same day that the fine elms in front of the houses occupied by Nathan Dane and Mrs. Hilton were set out, and it was an old-time story that they were taken up on Tavern Hill and transplanted in the places they now occupy.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Lord moved very slowly; the outlook was discouraging, and he had neither the courage nor the pecuniary ability to urge the progress of his undertaking. In 1784, however, the site had been prepared and a neat and comfortable one-story dwelling erected thereon. This building to-day occupies the same spot as when completed, but it has been much added to, and now forms a part of the lower story of the main building of the Mousam House (hotel). Mr. Lord married Mary, daughter of Edmund Currier, in the summer of 1784. Three of his children, viz.: Mary, who married Mark Dresser; Susanna, who married Elisha Chadburn, 1807, and Lydia, who died in 1884 at the advanced age of ninety-six years and six months, were born in this house.

After residing there for a few years Mr. Lord sold the estate to William Jefferds, by whom it was at once opened as a public house,

<sup>1</sup>The descendants of Daniel Shackley, Sr., say that there is a tradition in their family that these trees were taken from Mr. Shackley's farm (beyond the Larabee place), on Kennebunk River, and were set out as above by Mr. Shackley, James Kimball and Theodore Lyman. We know not why full credit should not be given to this tradition, so far, at least, as regards the three standing in front of Mr. Dane's lot; there is another tradition, apparently equally as well entitled to credit as the foregoing, that the two trees before Mrs. Hilton's lot were taken from Tavern Hill and set out where they are now standing by the same persons and on the same day. It is not a matter of great importance.

which was remarkably well managed and soon acquired so much patronage and popularity as to render necessary an addition of a story to the main building and of a long ell for a kitchen and other needed apartments. Increasing patronage from augmented travel, owing to growth of the New England States in population and business prosperity, in a few years demanded that a third story be added to the main building and a second story to the ell, which was used as a hall.

Mr. Josiah Paine,<sup>1</sup> of Portland, was the first to employ stage-coaches for conveyance of mails and passengers between Portland and Portsmouth. This was in 1810. The passage from Portland to Boston was made in "two days only." The first lines of stages between Portland and Portsmouth and Portsmouth and Boston proved to be a successful venture and the proprietors soon found it necessary to enlarge their operations; to do this required more capital than they could command individually; to meet this requisite a stock company was formed in each division as early as 1820. In 1824 the Portland and Portsmouth Company was incorporated by the Legislature of Maine as the "Portland Stage Company," with a capital of forty thousand dollars, which in 1828 was increased to fifty thousand dollars. "Jefferds's Tavern" was also a "Stage House," and being midway between their terminals the stage lines were important auxiliaries to its prosperity. The time-tables of the "accommodation stages" were necessarily so arranged that they met here about noon, and the passengers always found the dining room well provided with substantials as well as delicacies in the way of food. The hours of arrival and departure of the mail stage were not so regular, as these were governed by instructions from the Post Office Department. Twice each secular day, both from east and west, coaches drawn by four horses rolled along the streets of the village, oftentimes followed by one, two, and occasionally even three extras, all loaded to the utmost capacity of the vehicle. For many years the approach of the stage was heralded by thrilling and prolonged blasts from the driver's huge tin horn; this practice was abandoned prior to 1820, first by the accommodation stage and not long after by the mail. Carle and Rogers were among the well-known and favorite occupants of the driver's seat on the mail line, while the familiar faces of the "accommodation" drivers, among whom were

<sup>1</sup>Josiah Paine died in Portland in 1825. He had been a mail contractor for about thirty years, and during that time he had been constantly improving and enlarging the mail routes in Maine.



"Clem," "George," "Robert" and "Henry," were always greeted with smiling countenances as the drivers passed along, occasionally "touching up the leaders." In those days, before express companies were known, the stage coachman was an important personage, on whom the public greatly depended for the transmission of money and parcels of all kinds. Some of these parcels required that the bearers should be made confidential agents and entrusted with secrets of consequence to individuals.

There have been many interesting occurrences in "Jefferds's Hall." Here the illustrious Lafayette dined, with his son and secretary, while he was our nation's honored guest, in 1825; here have been "Fourth of July Dinners," with their customary accompaniments of speech and toast and song; here have been notable political gatherings, in which notable public men were participants; here town meetings have been held; here have been justices' court trials; here the "Fire Society" and other societies have sat down to excellent suppers; here the itinerant lecturer and showman have given exhibitions, scientific, literary and magical, and here have been hilarious parties, seldom afterward referred to, "soon lost to memory."

Between the years 1770 and 1777 Rev. Daniel Little bought a lot of land of Daniel Clark and smaller lots of other persons, and adjoining these, in 1778, he laid out forty-three acres of commons under a grant to him by the town, which together made up the farm on the Sanford road first known as the "Parson Little farm," then as the "Piper place" and afterward the "Paul Stevens farm." It is now owned by George T. Jones. Mr. Little devised this place to his daughter, Sarah, who married Rev. Asa Piper, the first settled minister in Wakefield, N. H., where he continued to preach for many years, and where his old homestead is still in possession of his descendants. Mr. Little's special reasons for leaving his home at the Landing and building and occupying the Sanford road house, about 1790, were never definitely known. In answer to an inquiry respecting his motives for this change, his granddaughter (the late Mrs. Scott, of Flushing, Long Island, N. Y.,) stated that she thought there was no other reason than that of his perfect infatuation with the location. Rankin's Brook runs between the house and the road, and on the bank of this he erected a summer house wherein he was accustomed to read and write during the warm season, and which he always spoke of as his "dear little box." He spent his declining years on this place very happily. Between the date of his death (October, 1801,) and the purchase of the farm by Stevens, it was occupied by Judge Stephen Thacher, Isaac C. Pray (of the firm of Wataston, Pray & Co.) and others. Piper never lived there.

## CHAPTER XII.

THE PROSPERITY OF KENNEBUNK DATING FROM 1750—GRANTS OF LAND IN ALEWIVE—ROSS ROAD—HART'S BEACH ROAD—THE VILLAGE BRIDGE AND ROAD THEREFROM—THE MILL YARD AND TRIANGLE.

Kennebunk, as the Second Parish in Wells, was now (1750) slowly increasing in population and gradually attaining prominence as a business center, which gave promise of a prosperous future. The "road by the sea," which led from Cole's Corner, seaward, to Little River, by ferry across Little and Mousam Rivers to Hart's Beach and the foot of Great Hill, around Gillespie's Point, following Boothby's, the "Gravel" (or "second sands") and Gooch's Beaches and, by ferry across Kennebunk River, thence by the seashore to Cape Porpoise, Winter Harbor and farther east, was a thing of the past.<sup>1</sup> A road had been established and made comfortably passable, commencing at Cole's Corner (where it connected with the "king's highway" through York, Berwick, Ogunquit and Wells to this Corner), running thence over Cole's Hill to what is Pike's mill on Little River, across the river, through Harriseeket to the Sanford road. From there it ran to the western part of the village, along by the river where is now Pleasant Street and the street leading to the machine shops (destroyed by fire in 1889) nearly to the lower dam, across the bridge to the highway leading from Mousam landing place to Coxhall, up this road to what is Garden Street, thence through the woods, chiefly to the Kimball neighborhood and Kennebunk River at Littlefield's mills; this route for many years was known as the "Saco path." Another road commenced eighty rods above these mills and ran down by the river to the "common flowing of the salt water" (of which way no vestige remains), thence to John Mitchell's, near the mouth of the river, and then to the sea, very nearly the same route as that traveled at the present time by way of "Falls Creek" or Towne's Bridge; there was also a road from

<sup>1</sup> This seashore route from Wells to Portland was not entirely abandoned, here or elsewhere, until after the Indian wars were over (1760). There were times, undoubtedly, during the continuance of these wars when travelers could pass over this route more safely and expeditiously than by the "upper way" or "Saco path."

Boothby's Beach to the lot known as "Susa Butland's lot," thence as the cross road runs to the county road (near the "Brookins house") at the Landing. Before the last-named road had been made passable, persons living at or near the Larrabee hamlet had a beaten path to Mousam Mills, from Larrabee's across "Wise's pasture," through the "Factory woods" and "Remich's woods," across Clay Hill, and thence "across lots" to the mills. Clay Hill, formerly known as Barnard's pasture, but now owned by several persons, for a long time furnished material for bricks made on the contiguous brick-yard. The author, when about twelve years of age, walked over the upper portion of this path in company with the late Joseph Storer, and was told by him that for a number of years there was a rough bridge of logs across the narrow ravine between Clay Hill and the high land just opposite, wide enough for oxen and cart, which bridge formed a part of the pathway from Larrabee's to the Mills. Storer pointed to two or three decaying logs lying near by, which he said were all that remained of this structure built by the earliest settlers.<sup>1</sup>

These established roads and beaten paths, together with the many passable ways that led from house to house and from hamlet to hamlet, afforded very fair facilities for travel and for business requirements, and these facilities were shortly afterward materially increased in consequence of an order of Court (1753) "that the towns of Wells, Cape Porpoise and Saco shall make sufficient highways in their respective towns from house to house, clear and fit for foot and cart."

From 1750 to 1760 was a period of marked prosperity in the new parish. Farming land was especially sought for and many lots

<sup>1</sup>There is a legend connected with this bridge:—While passing over it, homeward bound, one afternoon in summer, with steers, cart and a small load of lumber, Sergeant Larrabee espied a dozen or more Indians lying in ambush in the adjacent valley. He hurried the steers forward, with the view of reaching high land before his foes could "head him off." This purpose was accomplished, and when the Indians gained the top of the hill he was in advance of them on the path. He detached his steers from the cart, feeling assured that when set at liberty they would direct their steps toward the garrison and reach there in safety. He then faced his pursuers and pointed his gun at the foremost, in this manner slowly walking backward on the way to his home. The Indians followed, but dared not fire a musket nor rush upon him, no one of them being ambitious to be the one who would surely be shot by the Sergeant if there was the slightest movement indicating that either of these measures had been resolved upon. He reached the garrison without harm and his enemies retired from the field. The next morning cart and lumber were found undisturbed. This method of thwarting hostile intentions of the Indians, facing them with a loaded musket and walking backward, was frequently and successfully resorted to by whites during the Indian wars.



were purchased for improvement as farms by industrious and energetic men, who at once entered upon the work of clearing and cultivating their newly acquired acres and erecting dwelling-houses and barns thereon. In all parts of our territory there were proofs of sagacious management and of business prosperity. Attention at this time was particularly directed to that section of the town now known as the Alewives and its vicinity. Adam Ross,<sup>1</sup> supposed to have been the first settler in this district, owned land and had probably built a house there prior to 1760. Caleb Littlefield & Co. now found a ready sale for a considerable portion of their grant of six hundred acres of upland and sixty of marsh (1714), of which only ten acres had been previously disposed of. Fifty acres of this grant were sold to Samuel Waterhouse, May 19, 1752, bounds "beginning at a marked tree, thence running N. W. by W., then S. S. W., then S. S. E. to a marked tree." This lot, with the buildings thereon, has been the homestead of Waterhouse and his descendants until within a few years.

June 30, 1753, fifty acres of the above-named grant were laid out on the north side of Alewife Brook for James Smith, who came from York. This lot, with the buildings thereon, which were erected shortly after its purchase, was the homestead of Smith during the remainder of his life, as well as the lifelong home of his son Nathaniel, and of his son James, and is now the residence of the widow and daughter Ellen of the last-named James.

The same day and under the same grant sixty acres were laid out for Benjamin Day, beginning at James Smith's westerly corner bounds and also bounded by the east corner of William Waterhouse's lot. Day was the son of Joseph, who bought land on the north branch of Little River in 1720, which he exchanged for an adjoining lot in 1728, whereon he erected the usual farm buildings of the time. He had probably been a resident of Wells several years prior to 1720 and was undoubtedly the ancestor of all the Day families in town.<sup>2</sup> The Benjamin who purchased the lot above named, in 1753, and erected buildings thereon was, doubtless, the son of Joseph and Patience, and we *conjecture* was the father of the Benjamin who owned and occupied the farm for many years. He sold it to Heber Gowen in 1829. Gowen tore down the old buildings and erected

<sup>1</sup>Adam Ross married Hannah Taylor in 1760.

<sup>2</sup>We do not know when nor to whom he was married. The records give the names of the children of Joseph and Patience Day as follow: Sarah, born in 1717; Joseph, 1719; Benjamin, 1723; Mary, 1725; Priscilla, 1727; Hilton, 1729; William, 1731, and Elizabeth, 1733.

others, neat and commodious, in 1830. Gowen sold to David Tuxbury in 1847; Tuxbury to Josiah Hill in 1848; Hill to James and Charles Smith in 1852, and James his half-part to Charles the same year. It is still in possession of the last-named.

Fifty acres of Caleb Littlefield & Co.'s grant were laid out for William Waterhouse, of Arundel,<sup>1</sup> June 30, 1753, bounds beginning on north side of Alewife Brook, at Benjamin Day's westerly corner.

Under same grant and on the same day forty acres were laid out for Samuel Littlefield, Jr., bounds beginning at James Smith's easterly corner. Littlefield erected buildings on this lot. He married Susanna Bellamy in 1749. He sold this farm to John Walker in 1783, in whose possession and that of his son John it remained about eighty years. The farm is now owned by Joshua Russell.

Before selling his Alewife farm to Walker, Littlefield had purchased a tract of land at Cat Mousam and soon after erected a dwelling-house thereon; this was quite near the highway. A few years later he built the house farther from the road, afterward occupied by Samuel Littlefield, grandson of the Samuel, Jr., above named. This estate has been in possession of the family more than a hundred years.

Deacon Stephen Larrabee bought of Caleb Littlefield & Co., June 30, 1753, fifty acres "on the southeasterly side of Kennebunk River." The precise date when Deacon Larrabee completed and first occupied the dwelling erected by him on this lot is not known, probably, however, as early as 1755. He resided here the remainder of his life, and after his decease it was occupied many years by his descendants. Collins Emmons is the present owner and occupant of this property, which has been greatly improved through his judicious management.

Under the before-named grant, fifty-four acres (in addition to those before mentioned) were laid out for Samuel Littlefield, Jr., bounds beginning at Deacon Larrabee's westerly corner. Littlefield sold this lot to Col. John Taylor, who erected buildings thereon, and by him and his heirs it was occupied many years. Taylor's heirs sold the estate to Seth Emmons, who tore down the old buildings and erected the large dwelling-house now standing very nearly on the site of the old. The property is held by Seth T., son of Seth,

<sup>1</sup>*Bradbury* says "Waterhouse, William, was employed to keep school [in Arundel] in 1745. He was residing here in 1764. Samuel, probably a brother to William, married Mary Whitten, Aug. 16, 1750." Some of their descendants still reside in this town.

Sr. He has much improved the estate by the addition of barns and other outbuildings. His son, Frank A., is the owner of the excellent greenhouses situated opposite his father's residence.

Same year and under grant above named laid out for Anthony Littlefield fifty acres, the Middle Mill town grant, bounds beginning on "S. W. side of Mousam River, at the mill pond of the Second Mousam mill, a neck or joint of land exclusive of highway."

1753. Laid out for Richard Thompson, under Look's grant (1714), forty acres at the lower end of his house lot, on its western side, on the road leading from Alewife road to the Middle Mills, adjoining the homestead of said Richard, who was succeeded by his son David, and David by his son Edward.

Paul Shackford moved from Kennebunkport to this town about 1750, purchased land in Lower Alewife and put up buildings thereon. This land was bounded by the road leading to Upper Alewife on the east, by that leading from the Alewife road to the Middle Mills (now West Kennebunk) on the south, northerly by lot purchased in 1753 by John Maddox and westerly by land of Richard Thompson. *Bradbury* says he "built the first house in the village of Kennebunkport, about 1740. He was a ship carpenter," and after his removal to Alewife "he built quite a large vessel and hauled her to the sea." Beyond the facts here given we know nothing concerning him. His dwelling was torn down probably before the commencement of the last century. He had one son and perhaps a daughter or daughters.

Paul, Jr.,<sup>1</sup> bought fifty acres of land of "Shubull Boston, Aug. 15, 1785, bounds beginning at a red oak tree, marked, then S. W. thirty-three rods to a pitch pine tree, then S. E. sixty rods, then N. E. to Elwife meadows, then northwesterly by said meadows and Elwife Pond to first bounds. The said tract was part of lot No. 10, in North Division." His buildings are not now standing and his acres are merged in a neighboring farm.

There were laid out for John Maddox (under Caleb Littlefield & Co.'s grant), in 1753, twenty-five acres of land, bounded southerly by Paul Shackford's land and running west-northwest. Maddox was the son of Henry Maddox, who moved from Berwick to Kennebunkport at a date unknown. John came to this town about 1745, married Sarah Kimball in 1747 and erected a house about 1754. They had several children. In later years his farm came into the posses-

<sup>1</sup>The Wells records say that Paul Shackford married Hannah Day, Oct. 26, 1774, and also that Paul Shackford married Meribah Whittum, Dec. 2, 1784. He had several children.



sion of Daniel Hodsdon and was cultivated by a tenant, a Mr. Rideout, for several years. Hodsdon sold to Nathan Ferrin, of Newfield, who occupied the farm, tore down the old buildings and put up new. His son Nathan now owns and occupies it.

There were several families of the name of Maddox in this town in the early part of 1800, descendants of John and Sarah; one had a dwelling and a large tract of land on the Sanford road, another a dwelling and land on the Alewife road, a short distance south of the bridge over the railway track, both long since demolished or removed. We think there is only one family of this surname now residing here.

July 9, 1754, fifty acres of Caleb Littlefield & Co.'s grant were laid out for Joseph Town, "beginning at Adam Ross's northerly corner and by his head line to James Burnham's land." Town died a few years later, and this lot, with the buildings thereon, was sold to Joseph Averill by James Hubbard, administrator of Town's estate; Shadrack Watson (who married Susanna Kimball, 1733) succeeded Averill; Joseph Taylor, son of Colonel John, succeeded Watson. That part of this farm lying on the west side of the road is now owned and occupied by Marshall Kimball; so much thereof as lies on the east side is a part of Edwin Walker's farm.

Fifty acres of land were laid out for Daniel Little, 1754, under grant to John Littlefield, November 20, 1660,<sup>1</sup> beginning about twenty rods from Alewife Brook, by land of Adam Ross, on northeast side of said brook. Little sold this lot to Waldo Emerson and Emerson to Gibbens Wakefield, who erected buildings thereon, a short distance from the highway. Jeremiah Miller succeeded Wakefield, who sold to Eliphalet Walker, by whom the old buildings were removed and new ones erected in a better location. Walker was a tanner and carried on the business here; at his death the property came into possession of his son, Tobias, who was for several years one of the selectmen of the town, — from 1828 to 1831 inclusive, and again in 1855. He represented the District of Kennebunk and Alfred in the State Legislatures of 1846 and 1849. Edwin, son of Tobias, now owns and occupies this farm. He was one of the selectmen of the town six years, from 1874 to 1882 inclusive.

There were laid out for James Burnham, under last-named grant, fifty acres, "beginning at Daniel Little's westerly corner,"

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 20, 1660. Town granted to John Littlefield, William Hammond, John Bush, Nicholas Cole and Jonathan Thing, one hundred acres of upland and ten of marsh, each.

July 8, 1854, and on the following day fifty-five acres, under grant to James Willett (1713), beginning at Mr. Little's northerly corner. This fifty-five acres had been previously—1734—laid out for Burnham at the great eddy on Little River,<sup>1</sup> but it was found that the lot had already been laid out for other persons, and this location was in lieu of that first made.

There were laid out for John Gillpatrick, May 29, 1752, fifty-nine acres (under Caleb Littlefield & Co.'s and Jonathan Littlefield's grants), "beginning at the mouth of a little gully on the E. side of Mousam River, about twenty-four rods above the Cat Mill." This estate was held by John and his descendants more than a century; it is now in possession of Emerson Littlefield.

Gillpatrick and Obediah Littlefield purchased the two hundred acres of land which were granted to John Wadleigh in 1720 and laid out to his heirs in 1731, the bounds of which were renewed to Gillpatrick and Littlefield in 1760, on the northeast side of Mousam River and adjoining the grant to the Eppses, then held by John Storer.

John Mitchell (Cat Mousam) bought ten acres of meadow in 1765, the bounds of eight of which are thus described: "beginning at the easterly corner of a hundred acre lot, now in possession of said Mitchell, on the southwest side of and adjoining Mousam River, the road that goeth between Samuel Stevens's land and the river and by Jonathan Taylor's land and the river"; the remaining two acres lying at the "head of Mitchell's hundred acre lot."

In a description of a lot of land laid out for John Wormwood, in 1752, and of a lot laid out for Joshua Goodwin, in 1757, the saw-mill on the north branch of Little River is referred to as *the* saw-mill on said river, authorizing the inference that there was no other mill on this river in either of those years.

Caleb Kimball's grant of one hundred acres (1735) was laid out in 1735, "near Kennebunk River, beginning at the northerly corner bounds of the upper lot of Samuel Littlefield." Fifty acres of this grant were sold to Capt. James Ross, the bounds of which were reviewed in 1771, "beginning at Kennebunk River, adjoining fence and land of Richard Kimball, Jr., and running westerly to James Kimball's land, then N. N. E. by Kimball's and widow Samuel Shackley's lands to Kennebunk River and by the river to first

<sup>1</sup> The surveyor describes the great eddy lot, in part, as follows: "From sd tree run sowsowwest eighty rods to a red oke tree markt on foure sides and markt with the letters g: b."

mentioned bounds." The other half-part became the property of Thomas Kimball, succeeded by James, then by Peabody and his descendants.

November 9, 1752, Stephen Larrabee bought (under Caleb Littlefield & Co.'s grant) sixty-one acres, "beginning at the mouth of a little brook, about forty rods below the mouth of Alewife Brook." This has been known, until within a few years, as the "Larrabee farm," on the extension of the road by the Ross farm to Lower Alewife. Joel, son of Stephen, put up a dwelling-house and other buildings on this lot in 1774-5, occupying them for the first time January 1, 1776. In 1828 a part of this house was torn down, the other part removed east of Ross's, which was afterward owned and occupied by Mrs. Lancey Littlefield. Ebenezer, son of Joel, put up a new dwelling-house on or near the site of the old one thus disposed of, living there a number of years, when he sold it and purchased the estate then vacated by Thomas L. Littlefield, on Mechanic Street; here he made his home. Joel, son of Ebenezer, resides on Portland Street, opposite the site of the house built by Nathaniel Kimball (1726), where he has erected neat and commodious buildings.

Samuel and John Shackley, brothers, shoemakers and tanners, became residents of this town about 1740. Samuel purchased a tract of land opposite Caleb Kimball's grant and erected a house thereon, also a tannery. He had seven children, viz.: John, Richard, Joseph, Ebenezer, Thomas, Mary and Keziah. Thomas was deformed; Ebenezer was quite small (four feet and two inches in height), was a shoemaker by trade and kept a small store, near the village bridge, for many years, where he accumulated a few thousands of dollars; he was peculiar, but honest in all his dealings and a good citizen. Richard lived awhile on the Alfred road, in the house built by Ebenezer Rand, a relative, and became Rand's heir; he was the father of Samuel Shackley, whose descendants still reside in town; he removed to Lyman, "two miles north of Kennebunkport line," at a date unknown, having exchanged farms with Samuel B. Low. The Rand buildings were moved by Low to the village. Joseph, who lived in Sanford, was the father of Capt. Joseph Shackley. Mary married Samuel Cole, of Sanford, whose son bought land on the road leading from Upper Alewife to the Plains and built a house there, to which an addition was subsequently made for the occupancy of his son.

John Shackley (1740) located himself about a mile north of his brother and erected a dwelling-house and outbuildings, also a tannery,



near the confluence of Alewife Brook with the Kennebunk River. He had a son, Daniel, who inherited the homestead; he was succeeded in its ownership by his son, Daniel, who occupied the estate many years. He sold out and removed to the Portland road, near Bartlett's Mills, occupying the house built by the Coulliard brothers; this house he afterward purchased. He left two sons, both of whom took up their residence in Portsmouth, N. H., and a daughter, Mary, who sold the property on the Portland road and moved to the village. The buildings erected by John (1740) were destroyed by fire, the tan pits are filled up, and the old homestead acres show few or no signs of former inhabitation.

In 1752 the saw-mill on the Lower Falls (Mousam Village), which had been in a dilapidated condition for many years and which had not been operated since the freshet of 1708, was rebuilt by Joseph Storer, Nathaniel Wakefield and Stephen Larrabee. It stood, however, but a short time; the great freshet of 1755 swept this structure away and rendered the dam nearly worthless. In 1759 the saw-mill was built on the site now occupied by the merino factory and a grist-mill near by, the precise location of which is not now known. Of course the remains of the old dam were removed and another dam built on the site of that now standing in the village. When Coburn<sup>1</sup> came here, in 1757, to make preparations for the building of the new mills, the territory south of the "Saco path" (now Garden Street and a part of Main Street) and east of the way to Mousam Landing, as far as the present Town Hall, was a forest. Probably the lot on which the Storer mansion stood had been cleared years before.

The road laid out in 1796, from the village bridge, by Jefferds's, the mile brook, Hart's land and the Great Swamp to "Gould's Causey," was undoubtedly mainly over a beaten track that had been long used, but which had not been surveyed and formally accepted by the town. (If it had been legally laid out, no record was made of the fact, or, if recorded, it has escaped our observation.) There must have been a comfortable pathway from the sea to the mills

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Coburn came here, in 1757, as an assistant to Joseph Storer, who had determined to make this part of the town his permanent residence, to rebuild the saw-mill, to build a grist-mill, and to operate these mills. Coburn came to Wells from York, and had probably been an assistant to or partner with Storer for several years previous to the above-named date. In 1761 he purchased one-third of the 202 acres—embracing a portion of the territory now occupied by the village—which Thomas Cousens bought of Corwin's heirs. This purchase, however, was doubtless made in behalf of Storer, who subsequently came into possession of it.

many years before. The widow Taylor lived on the west side of the river, near what is known as "Wallingford's pasture," as early as 1715; she was succeeded by Edward Evans, about 1735. William Wormwood, Jr., a little farther down the river, built his house before 1727. Ebenezer Dunham had erected buildings near the present intersection of the roads from the village to the sea and from the Port to Wells<sup>1</sup> prior to 1756, and Colonel Hart became the owner of the Sanders place in 1787. Samuel Hart's house was not built until 1798 or '99. The Taylor, Dunham, Sanders and Samuel Hart houses were demolished many years ago.

This road was designed to afford those living in its vicinity, as well as the public, easier access to Cole's Corner and also to the mills and hamlets at Harriseeket and the Branch. This movement stirred up the citizens living within the present village boundaries to adopt prompt and effective measures for securing a more convenient way whereby western Wells and the roads through and beyond it could be reached. The "Turnpike" was the outgrowth of what may properly be termed this forced appreciation of the necessity for such action.

The vicinity of this road has never been populous; the farms were valuable, in former years, for the splendid pine and other growth usually embraced within their bounds and for the strip of good intervale which, in most cases, formed a part of their acreage. The facilities of the farmers for fishing and obtaining seaweed and marsh mud were and still are excellent. As a whole, however, the tillage land is not of superior quality.

In 1805 the town voted that "Cole's District shall extend from the Doctor's Bridge, so-called, to John Clark's, to Col. Henry Hart's and to Nathan Wells's." In 1810 a separate school district, embracing the inhabitants and estates on this road and in its vicinity, was "set off and formed" by the town. The signers of the petition for this movement, we presume, embraced all the male adults within "School District No. 4," excepting Henry and Samuel Hart, who preferred not to sever their connection with Cole's District. The

<sup>1</sup>Ichabod Dunham, probably a brother to Ebenezer, lived in Wells prior to 1744. In that year he enlisted "as a private soldier to serve His Majesty King George the Second in a company of Foot, under the command of Major John Storer, in an expedition against the French settlements at Cape Breton and the Islands adjacent." The author has in his possession Dunham's acknowledgment of his voluntary enlistment as above, dated Feb. 5, 1744; he made his mark for a signature. John Storer, "one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for said County," appends his certificate that Dunham had taken the "oath of fidelity, that he was aged thirty-five years and was born at Plympton, Mass., and that he had been paid one pound, new emission, inlisting money."

petitioners were Nathan, Joseph, William and Samuel Wells, Jr., Abner, William and William Wormwood, Jr., Thomas Fernald, John and Samuel Bragdon.

We have now told what we know concerning the early history of that portion of our town lying between Mousam and Little Rivers.

Returning to and crossing the village bridge, we find that shortly after it had been built near its present location (1772-1774) Joseph Storer cleared off the logs from a part of his mill yard and made a passable way from the bridge to a point where it intersected the then traveled road by way of what is termed Garden Street. He also cleared the space now occupied by stores on the north side of Main Street. In order to do this it was necessary—in addition to all other vacant places about the mill available for the purpose—to encumber the road from “the mill pond above Mousam mill” (Garden Street) with logs and sawed lumber, and also to occupy a broad strip from that part of Mr. Storer’s lawn adjoining the road and in front of his dwelling-house with the same materials. This operation of course diminished materially the width of the road (four rods wide, as laid out in 1765). It was done without legal authority, but it was regarded as a great convenience and benefit and we infer was very generally and cheerfully assented to. No claims or concessions in regard to their highway were made by Storer or the town; the movement was regarded simply as a temporary arrangement, mutually beneficial to mill owners and citizens, a much needed improvement, and the space now occupied by stores on the triangular lot was cleared, embracing what is Main Street, from the bridge to Scotchman’s Brook, and the store lots fronting thereon.

Joseph Storer, son of the before-named Joseph, was the first to put up a store on the triangular lot which his father had cleared,—1783-1785. It was a large building, two stories high, and stood on the lot afterward occupied by Clark’s store. This was called the “long store.” It was furnished with an excellent stock of goods, among which was a small assortment of dress fabrics, probably the first that had been offered for sale in town. Succeeding Barnard as postmaster, Storer removed the post office to this building, where it was kept until 1810, when he resigned, having been appointed collector of the customs, in place of Jonas Clark. The custom house was kept in this building until 1815, when it was changed to its present location in Kennebunkport. One Joseph Marsh, a popular young man and a connection of Storer, was a clerk in his store for several



years. Mr. Storer relinquished trading within two or three months after the custom house had been removed, and the store was occupied by Stephen Thacher, who left town in 1818, having received the appointment of collector of the customs at Lubec. Benaiah Littlefield occupied this building two or three years as a dwelling-house; a small vacant lot on the west side afforded him an excellent garden spot, which he profitably improved. It was purchased, about 1833, by Isaac Lord (firm of James & Isaac Lord), moved to High Street, on the west side of the river, fitted up for a dwelling-house and occupied by Mr. Lord a few years, when he left town and the building was sold to Capt. Joseph Hatch, Jr., by whom and his widow it was improved many years; after her decease it was sold by her heirs to Albert M. Reed.

The second building put up on the mill-yard lot was a store erected by Thomas Boothby about 1795. It is probable that he or one of his sons traded here, although there is no positive evidence that such is the fact. Ebenezer Shackley was the first tenant of whom we can obtain certain information; he traded there twenty years or more and then moved into Pearson's store (now William Fairfield's). He was succeeded in the Boothby store by John Pellion, a butcher, who sold meats, provisions and groceries; he remained two or three years and then moved to Providence, R. I. Pellion was succeeded by Adoniram Hardison and he by George Perkins, who occupied it a few years and then relinquished trading for, to him, the more congenial employment of farming. The building stood on the lot formerly occupied by the store of T. W. Rice & Co. and next to the mill yard. We are told that it was removed out of the village, some two or three miles, and converted into a dwelling-house.

The third store built on this triangular lot, where Dresser's store now stands, was put up by Jesse and Joel Larrabee about 1790. They or their sons undoubtedly traded there for awhile; they were succeeded by Parker Webster, who afterward moved up town to the Washington Hall building, and he by George Perkins, Sr., whose family lived at the Port until the house and store erected by him were fit for occupancy.

The heirs of Jesse (Jesse and Benjamin) sold to their uncle Joel in December, 1798, for the sum of fifty dollars, one-half of this store, which is thus described in the deed: "the one-half of a certain store in Wells, now standing on the lower saw-mill privilege on Mousam River, between Joseph Storer's store and a store lately

built by Thomas Boothby, which store was built by Jesse Larrabee, deceased, and the said Joel in partnership, and said store is now occupied by Parker Webster, together with one-half of the land the said store stands on and one-half the privileges and appurtenances."

This store subsequently had various tenants, until purchased by James Ross in 1823 and moved to the west side of the river, an addition built on and fitted up for a dwelling. It is now the second house on Pleasant Street and is generally known as the "Samuel Kimball house."

A large two-story building, the fourth on the mill lot, was put up by Richard Gillpatrick and occupied by him and his son William for many years as a store. It was subsequently occupied by George W. Wallingford as an apothecary shop. The post office was kept there a few years. It stood on the lot afterward occupied by Wiggins's meat shop.

The fifth and last building on the triangular lot was erected by Capt. John Low for a store, where he transacted business for a few years. It was improved by Benaiah Littlefield as a carpenter shop until he moved into a new shop, on the site of the Larrabee store, erected by him for himself and his sons, George and Thomas. Edmund Lord lived in this fifth building for a year or two, until his house on Pleasant Street (afterward owned by Rev. Mr. Worth) was ready for occupancy. The last tenant was Joseph Getchell, manufacturer of tinware and dealer in stoves, whose son John later occupied a building on the same lot. It was destroyed by fire in 1862, and on the site of the old store Mr. Getchell and his son John built another. In 1889 the building and lot were purchased by George L. Little and fitted up as a jewelry store for his son-in-law, William G. Frost. John Getchell continued the tin business on the second floor for a short time.

Some four or five years before Storer built the "long store," Tobias Lord erected a small store (1778) on the west side of what is now Water Street, two or three rods west of Scotchman's Brook, trading there in lumber and ship timber and building vessels at Mousam Landing. James Osborn, Sr., was his clerk. One Prentice, a trader and schoolmaster, put up a building nearly opposite the lower dam the following year. A shed was hauled from the defunct salt works at Boothby's Beach, which was made tenantable as a dwelling-place, and a small addition attached to the north end, which was utilized as a store. Prentice taught school hereabout

several years before he went into trade and afterward united the employments of trader and schoolmaster. He earned a good reputation as a teacher and was esteemed a worthy citizen. His marriage to Dolly Day took place in 1776. In 1782 he bought of Benjamin Day fifty acres of land, situated in Harriseeket or the Day neighborhood. In 1788 he left town, probably to take up his abode in some locality where the prospects of success were more encouraging, inasmuch as traders who were able to command more capital than it was his fortune to possess were rapidly increasing in the vicinity of Mousam Mills. After Prentice vacated his house it was occupied by John Bourne, who probably worked at his trade, that of shipwright, at Mousam Landing; he however did not remain long, but moved to Kennebunk Landing. Dominicus Lord, having sold his house on Tavern Hill, succeeded Bourne as tenant of the Prentice house; after living here a long time he moved the building to a lot adjoining, easterly, that occupied by Joseph Thomas on (now) Pleasant Street. The house was torn down shortly after his decease, February 5, 1849, aged eighty-seven years.

Tobias Lord, about 1781 (in November of which year he married Hepzibah Conant), built a small house on a lot adjoining and north of that occupied by Prentice, which was nearly opposite the lower dam. He moved to Kennebunk Landing some nine or ten years later, where he continued the business of shipbuilding and trading. Here he erected a large three-story house and a good-sized store; these he improved until 1803, when he relinquished business and moved to Alfred. The house was occupied many years by his son Ivory, and the store by his sons, George and Ivory. Both buildings were taken down within a few years. John Low succeeded Mr. Lord as tenant of his house opposite the lower dam. Low remained there during the building of his house on Tavern Hill (now the Unitarian parsonage). A few years later Mrs. John Gillespie became the occupant of the Lord house, where she dwelt many years, so long that it obtained the sobriquet of the "Gillespie house." It was torn down by Mr. Fiske, agent of the Manufacturing Company, prior to 1840.

About midway between the lower and the upper dam a small dwelling-house has stood for many years on the river's bank. By whom or when built is unknown. In the numerous conveyances made by different holders of shares in the Island Iron Works and in the grist-mill, which stood in close proximity thereto; in the fre-



quent references, on the records, to the removal of the bridge and in the surveyor's return of the laying out of town rights, by Jefferds, from the bank of the river inward, to secure certain desirable privileges,—all between the years 1770 and 1800,—no mention is made of this building or of the lot on which it stands. The town and the county records have been unsuccessfully resorted to for the desired information. The building has had numerous tenants, of whom, so far as has been ascertained, Joseph Curtis, a tanner, was the first. Did he build it? The "oldest inhabitant" is at fault when this inquiry is made to him. The peculiar position of this property, as regards the builder's name and the authority under which it was located where it stands, affords a wide range for queries which cannot, without additional light on the subject, be decisively answered.

On the southeasterly corner of the way opened by Storer, nearly equidistant from this and the town road (by the river), was the timber house put up by Ichabod Cousens in the early part of the century, which he vacated in 1758 when he moved to his new home on the west side of the river. Joseph Coburn succeeded him as tenant of the timber house. This was torn down by Storer about 1780 and a new building erected on or near its site; it was fitted for a shop on the lower floor and a dwelling on the upper. As soon as completed it was occupied by one Hooper, a cabinet-maker, who married Mary, daughter of Capt. George Perkins, Sr. He lived there several years and then left town. William Hacket succeeded to his business, occupying the same shop. Mr. Hacket had been here only three or four years when his shop was burned with all its contents through the carelessness of a journeyman, who left the room for breakfast, neglecting to remove a vessel containing some combustible material, which stood in close proximity to the fire and which ignited, setting fire to the shavings strewn about the floor; the flames spread with great rapidity. Deprived of tools, stock and shop, Mr. Hacket concluded to abandon the cabinet-maker's business and engage in trade. He succeeded Parker Webster in the Washington Hall building.

Daniel Whitney, somewhat celebrated in his day as the manufacturer of "Back-strap and Snarrow" boots, built the house (afterward occupied by Claudius B. Williams) in 1810 and a shop on the northwesterly corner of the lot in 1811. This lot had been used for a burying-ground, but at what date the first interment was made therein is not known. The remains of those who had been interred

in this ground were exhumed in 1805-6 and reinterred in various family lots. It is said quite a number of bodies had been buried there, but precisely how many of the descendants, with a single exception, cannot be ascertained. The remains of Samuel Littlefield, commonly called "Fat Sam,"<sup>1</sup> were found and removed to the cemetery near the church and reinterred on the lot belonging to his grandson, Moses Littlefield. "Fat Sam" was a well-known citizen in the early days of the settlement; his name frequently occurs in deeds and documents dated prior to 1730.

<sup>1</sup> *Bradbury* says "Fat Sam" was the son of Edmund Littlefield, who was the son of Francis, Sr., of Arundel, who was the son of Edmund, one of the Exeter combination and one of the earliest settlers of Wells. "Edmund, Jr., lived in the neighborhood of Mousam River," Samuel—"Fat Sam"—married Elizabeth Goodale in 1725, and for a time lived at Littlefield's Mills, but subsequently removed to Cape Arundel, occupying the house in which Thomas Wiswall afterward lived. He had four sons, Samuel, Anthony, Elijah and Edward. Samuel, Jr., was an active and well-known citizen of Kennebunk in 1750.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### "THE TIMES THAT TRIED MEN'S SOULS."

The French and Indian War—1755 to 1760—retarded for a season the growth and improvement of the Second Parish. A large percentage of the heads of families and of young men in Wells volunteered in answer to a call for men to battle against their old enemies, the Indians and the French. The increased population of the seashore towns, their improved defenses and their supplies of arms and ammunition, which were by no means abundant but still far better than in previous years, rendered it less hazardous than heretofore for the strong and active men to leave the settlement for a time. We think the following very nearly an accurate list of volunteers in the Second Parish.

Butland, John,	Evans, John,
Butland, William,	Evans, William,
Cousens, Nathaniel,	Kimball, Richard, Jr.,
<sup>1</sup> Dunham, Ebenezer,	Ross, Adam,
Emmons, John (son of Samuel),	Shackford, Paul,
<sup>2</sup> Evans, Abner,	Wakefield, Samuel.

The importance of wresting Canada from the French was fully realized by our people. While the French had a foothold there no hope could be reasonably entertained that the Colony would be safe from frequent incursions and horrible atrocities by their Indian allies; until the settlers could be assured that their lives and property were secure from the attacks of their savage enemies, anxiety must be their constant companion, enterprise must be crippled and all progress greatly impeded.

Some of our volunteers were sent to the lakes in the vicinity of Canada, some were employed as Coast Guards, while others engaged in hard-fought battles; all were in active service and proved them-

<sup>1</sup> Dunham was killed at Fort Niagara, in 1758.

<sup>2</sup> The Evans brothers were stationed at Fort Edward, on the Hudson, and were part of a guard of thirty men who were sent, with supplies, to Fort William Henry, at the head of Lake George. The guard was waylaid by the Indians and all were killed excepting one of these brothers, who escaped and reached Fort William Henry. His subsequent history is unknown.



selves to be brave and intrepid soldiers. Excepting the three named in the foregoing notes, all our volunteers returned to their homes in safety. Although in other sections the Indians had committed depredations and cruelties during the war, in this vicinity none had appeared.

The conflicts with the Indians and French were not without their influence in the hearts and homes of those of our New England people who had been engaged in them. Commanded by officers from among themselves, they had fought and won on several battlefields; therefore they could not avoid the comparison nor could they resist the conclusion that, in capacity, bravery, endurance and all the essentials of a reliable soldiery, they were the peers, to say the least, of the better disciplined, better clothed and better fed soldiers from European armies, respecting whom they had had opportunities for forming a pretty correct judgment. Our people had been learning self-reliance, and were feeling that they were *men* as well as subjects; the slavish reverence for kingly power was loosening its grasp upon them; they were willing to submit to the Crown as peaceable and good citizens, but the arbitrary measures, the deprivation of rights and the insulting decrees and orders promulgated by the Mother Country were each succeeding year grating more and more harshly upon their sensibilities. When a decade later—dating from the peace of 1760—it was whispered, in effect, “This is getting to be unbearable, we cannot submit to be reduced to serfdom,” the listeners to these treasonable suggestions were not backward in expressing their hearty approval of them, and when, a few years later, it was openly avowed, “Better die on the battlefield like men than live mere puppets or slaves,” the words, accompanied with an emphatic “So be it,” were echoed and re-echoed throughout the land. The Colonists well knew the strength and resources of the government against which they would be compelled to contend, but they looked back upon their own record in the conflicts in which they had “borne the heat and burden of the day,” and they felt that their cause was just; if necessary, they would fight and trust in God for the issue. England had availed herself of the services of the Colonists to uphold and increase her power; the Colonists, while thus employed, had gained the knowledge and experience which were to render them successful in resisting unjust exactions and in the building of a nation of self-governed freemen.

Notwithstanding the discontent and murmurings of which we have just spoken, the commencement of the year 1770 found the

Second Parish remarkably prosperous. The Indian troubles were over. In every section of its territory land had been taken up and cultivated; many dwelling-houses had been erected, several were being built and building lots had been secured for future improvement as homesteads. Several mechanics were plying their respective vocations; shipyards on the Mousam and the Kennebunk Rivers were furnishing employment for laborers and adding to the wealth of its citizens; there was a country store at the Landing, one at the Kimball neighborhood and one on what is now the main street of the principal village; there was within the precinct a meeting-house, which, although an uncomely edifice, within and without, had been procured at the cost of no inconsiderable amount of hard labor, as well as of self-sacrifice; a pastor had been settled over the parish for about twenty years; a schoolhouse had been built in a central location and schools were kept in private houses in the more remote parts of the territory. Roads had been laid out, good bridges across the rivers had succeeded the old wading places, saw-mills and a grist-mill were in operation; land was cheap, timber abundant, the water power on the rivers a prospective source of remunerative business, and harbors, easily accessible from the ocean, offered facilities for fishing and for commerce that needed only capital, which was slowly accumulating, for their successful development and prosecution.

For several years preceding the date we have mentioned clouds had been gathering in the political horizon, which, however, for awhile had excited no special anxiety. It was hoped and believed that they would dissolve and pass away without occasioning general disquiet or leading to serious consequences; but these hopes were not based on a solid foundation. Instead of dissolving they became more widespread and of a darker hue, and now threatened to overshadow the entire length and breadth of the Colonies, to cause depression everywhere to succeed buoyancy of spirits, to cause neglected farms, where patient toil had been putting forth its utmost efforts to make "the desert blossom as the rose," to increase taxation, already sufficiently burdensome, and to cause enterprise in every department of industry to be checked. The government of the Mother Country was mistrustful of her subjects in the Colonies; they had exhibited too many of the qualities of true manhood, too many evidences of thrift and self-reliance, too much intelligent appreciation of their "inalienable rights" as citizens and as subjects. In their intercourse with the king and his representatives, while always respectful, there

had been manifested too great a degree of mental acumen, as well as of fearless independence, to comport with monarchical ideas of the proper attitude of mere dependents or Colonists, who were expected to obey the mandates of their sovereign without exercising the right of private judgment as to their propriety or impropriety, to fight his battles, whether offensive or defensive, in blind obedience to orders and, satisfied with a bare subsistence, to submit in silence to excessive taxation and to a policy which deprived them of fair facilities for the accumulation of wealth and for the exercise and enjoyment of those conditions of society essential to prosperity and to mental and social advancement. Their legislative assemblies were manipulated by hirelings of the Crown, and they were denied the privilege of presenting in Parliament, through a representative of their own untrammelled choice, their views on questions affecting their highest interests.

For a season these grievances were patiently borne, with the hope that a different and more acceptable policy would be adopted by the Home Government; of this, however, as the years rolled along, there were no indications. Expressions of discontent became general and more and more pronounced; respectful representations, succeeded by earnest remonstrances, served rather to augment than to relax the oppressive measures which had been imposed on the Colonists. Massachusetts and Virginia, especially, by word and act, evinced the purpose of resistance, and these utterances and movements were well received by the masses; the spirit of opposition to the acts of the sovereign became more and more extended and demonstrative. The decided stand taken by citizens of Boston against the rigorous and oppressive measures of the Home Government, especially that bold and momentous act, the destruction of three hundred and forty-two chests of tea in Boston Harbor, on the evening of December 16, 1773,<sup>1</sup> aroused the indignation of the king and his counselors, and the Parliament, in 1774, passed as a retaliatory measure an act known as the Boston Port Bill, which provided for the removal of the customs, courts of justice and public offices of every kind from Boston to Salem. This proceeding destroyed the trade of the first-named town, paralyzed every branch of industry

<sup>1</sup>Seven thousand persons were present at a public meeting, held early the same evening, and they voted *unanimously* that the three cargoes of tea then lying on shipboard in the harbor should not be landed. Assured that the British authorities were determined to land them, contrary to the remonstrances of the Colonists, and strengthened by the approving voices of so many of the best citizens, the "Mohawks" proceeded, by their destruction, to defeat the purpose of the minions of the Crown.



and caused great suffering among the poor and laboring classes. Probably, until these events, the inhabitants of Wells, with perhaps very few exceptions, had not fully realized the critical condition of affairs between the Colonies and Great Britain; they were aware that the Colonists justly complained of the arbitrary proceedings of the Mother Country and that these remonstrances were disregarded, but they were not prepared for a step so revengeful and hostile on the part of the Government, nor were they prepared to hear of resistance so determined on the part of the Patriots. That the sentiments of our people, generally, were in complete unison with those who had bid defiance to the oppressor there cannot exist a doubt, nor can it be doubted that they contemplated the result, which now appeared to be inevitable, with apprehension and sorrow. For a brief period only had they been enabled to regard their homes as places of security, to pursue their various avocations with "heart and hope"; they were indulging pleasant anticipations of the future while bending their best energies to the improvement of their buildings, tilling of the soil and to the prosecution of various industrial pursuits, as far as their pecuniary means and requisite facilities would permit, but they were very poor. The "battle of life" with them, thus far, had been a hard and unremunerative contest. "Rebellion against the King! can it possibly be successful with all the odds so much against us?" The prospect was a gloomy one, with so much to fear and so little to hope for! Such thoughts naturally possessed their minds for a season, but it was for a season only. When the hour of action came, they proved themselves to be the men for the hour. The people of Wells and of other towns in York County sympathized deeply with the distressed inhabitants of the doomed capital, and the members of the Second or Kennebunk Parish manifested their sympathy by sending to their unfortunate brethren a liberal donation of wood (money they could not send to them), which was forwarded to Boston by a sloop commanded by Capt. Ebenezer Hovey, in January, 1775. This most timely present was acknowledged, with hearty thanks, by the "Committee of Donations."<sup>1</sup>

The people of York County, especially those residing in the coast towns, viewed these startling events with absorbing interest; they evidenced antagonism between the Home Government and the Massachusetts Colony that could not easily be reconciled. So inti-

<sup>1</sup>In 1760 the Second or Kennebunk Parish contributed more than two hundred dollars for the relief of the sufferers by a fire which destroyed about two hundred buildings in Boston.

mate were the business relations between these towns and Boston, that this blow to the prosperity of the latter was deplored as a disaster seriously affecting their own welfare. We infer, from the slight information on this subject that is now attainable, that a majority of the leading men in Wells, the most wealthy and those holding official positions, were of the opinion that those engaged in this open resistance to the port bill were precipitate, that a better course would have been to bear and forbear for awhile longer, with the hope that the Government could be prevailed upon to repeal its exasperating edict and adopt a policy that would be regarded with favor by the Colonists; we also infer that the masses, the bone and muscle, those who would be looked to as strong men for battle should a conflict come, were almost to a man in favor of sustaining the Boston patriots in the stand they had taken. Public sentiment in other towns was probably similarly divided. A conference of delegates from the several towns in the county, for consultation in reference to the then existing state of political affairs, was thought to be desirable, and accordingly a call was issued for a convention of delegates, which was called the "York County Congress." Very little is known concerning this meeting; it was held at Littlefield's Tavern, in Wells, on the fifteenth and sixteenth days of November, 1774, and the object was stated to be: "to take into consideration what measures may be pursued tending to the Peace and Welfare of the County." Several resolutions were adopted which were sufficiently patriotic in their tone, we should suppose, to meet the approval of their Boston friends. We have the names of only three of the delegates chosen, viz., John Hovey, Tobias Lord and Asa Burbank, of Arundel. The name of William Loughton is attached to the resolutions as clerk of the Congress, but the presiding officer is not given. In the tavern keeper's bill of "Congress expenses" is a charge for "25 men's dinners," and we presume, therefore, that twenty-six delegates attended the meeting. We are inclined to the opinion that this convention was an unimportant affair, that its proceedings were not of such a character as to warrant the high-sounding title that was applied to it. Loughton, the clerk, there is reason to suppose, was a straightforward, fearless man, but we do not find anything to justify the application of similar language to other members of this body. Whether the names of the delegates, especially those of the president and committee on resolutions, were accidentally mislaid, or were withheld under instructions prompted by timidity, there are now no means of determining.

Five months subsequently to the meeting of this Congress, on the morning of the nineteenth of April, 1775, "the soil of Lexington and Concord was baptized with the blood of American Patriots," an event which gave to the Provinces the option of a dishonorable surrender of the position they had taken or its defense at the cost of blood and treasure; the response was given on "Bunker's Heights on the glorious seventeenth of June," 1775. These conflicts strengthened the timid and irresolute, and, with few exceptions, all who had opposed the revolutionary utterances and decided action of the patriotic Provincials now not only admitted the propriety and necessity of these words and acts, but became the earnest advocates of the good cause of resistance to oppression. As a whole, the people of Wells welcomed the Declaration of Independence unanimously adopted by the Continental Congress, composed of representatives from the thirteen Colonies which were thereafter to be united and known as the United States of America. The Declaration was read, in accordance with the recommendation of the Provincial Council, from the pulpit of each of the churches on the Sunday following its reception in town. The attendance at both churches was unusually large, and it may well be supposed that the reading of the matchless document was listened to with the closest attention. They did not, they could not, fully realize the immense importance of this bold measure of Congress nor the magnitude of the undertaking on which they had embarked. "We felt," in the words of an old gentleman, distinguished as a citizen and a soldier, who listened to the reading of the Declaration in the Kennebunk church, and who was narrating, to the successor of the pastor by whom it was read, the appearance and comments of the auditors, as they stood in groups on the street after the service was over,— "We felt that the Rubicon had been passed; we well knew our poverty and weakness and the greatness and strength of the English; we well knew that dark and troublous times must inevitably be experienced; we *dared* not hazard conjectures as to the result; we could not doubt that we were in the right, and there was a certain indefinable *something* within each and all of us,—the aged, the middle-aged and the young, males and females, the religious and irreligious,—that told us to be of good cheer, to be faithful to the cause, to endure patiently, and the good God would be with us and cause success to attend our efforts."

The war continued; compromise was regarded as impossible. Great Britain was anxious to suspend hostilities and professed a willingness to make concessions, but these, as proposed, could not



be accepted by the Patriots. The Home Government stubbornly refused to yield any material point; all the plans presented by it virtually declared that the Mother Country must reap the harvest, while the Colonists were to be the toilers and mere dependents. These "acts of *gracious clemency* by the Crown" were spurned as insulting and unworthy consideration. The war must go on, although the odds were fearfully against our people; defeat and discomfiture attended them, until Washington's brilliant and successful movement at Trenton, on Christmas night, inspired confidence and enthusiasm, and the first campaign under the "Declaration" closed with far better results than had been anticipated.

The surrender of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga, in the autumn of 1777, was an important and encouraging event; the treaty with France, the following year, by the provisions of which that nation became our ally and sent over to us a squadron consisting of sixteen ships-of-the-line and frigates, bringing several thousand marines, could hardly fail to be looked upon as most auspicious. This squadron anchored off Newport, in July, to co-operate with General Sullivan, but the movement was unsuccessful. The Patriots were jubilant, however, and they were not so without abundant cause; the actual existence of an alliance with a powerful nation and the appearance of a large fleet of armed ships for service in our behalf were well calculated to revive their spirits and animate them with high hopes. So far, the presence of D'Estaing's war vessels and marines was temporarily helpful, but beyond this good influence it is questionable whether they afforded any real benefit to the American cause.

Great disappointment was experienced throughout the country in consequence of the inactivity of the perverse commander of the French fleet during the fall of 1778 and the spring of 1779; our operations at the South were unfortunate, and at the North, Wayne's capture of Stony Point and Sullivan's successful expedition into the Genesee region, although by no means insignificant, furnished no basis for hope of an early termination of the conflict. The season of 1779 was unfavorable; the crops in this and adjoining towns were very scanty, cereals and other esculent plants, when harvested, were not sufficient to furnish required food for the population; pasturage was meager and the hay crop inadequate to the comfortable subsistence of the cattle; the following winter was one of great

severity,<sup>1</sup> and, to fill up the measure of adverse circumstances, the currency was greatly depreciated, so that thirty dollars in the legal tenders of the Government were only equal to one dollar in coin. So rapid was the depreciation of the Continental money this year that in January seven hundred forty-two dollars in this currency would purchase only one hundred dollars in specie, but in the following December it required two thousand five hundred ninety-three dollars in currency to pay for one hundred dollars in specie; and still its course was downward. The whole country was greatly agitated by the existing financial embarrassments. While suffering from scarcity of food and from this depreciated currency, with scarcely a gleam of brightness in any direction which could be regarded as a token that a "better day is dawning," the town of Wells was called upon for and raised, in March, July and October of 1779, sums aggregating about one hundred thousand dollars in currency, equal probably to about three thousand five hundred dollars in coin.

These were the darkest days of the great struggle for independence. There were privations and suffering everywhere, among our soldiers at the different points where they had been stationed<sup>2</sup> and very generally in the homes of all classes in the community; but while these trials necessarily caused much despondency and doubt, there was still more of hope and trust, so strong was the influence of the patriotic ardor that pervaded the breasts of the people.

The harvest of 1780,<sup>3</sup> although not extraordinarily abundant, was quite equal to the needs of the population, and the winter of 1780-81 was less severe than the preceding. The arrival at Newport, in the summer of 1780, of a large fleet of French ships of war, having on board land forces amounting in all to about six thousand

<sup>1</sup>This was the severest winter ever experienced in America. Narragansett Bay was frozen over and the Bay of New York was so firmly bridged with ice that large bodies of troops and heavy fieldpieces crossed from New York City to Staten Island (a distance of nine miles).—*Ross's Historical Discourse*.

<sup>2</sup>The sufferings of the poor soldiers can scarcely be described; while on duty they are unavoidably exposed to all the inclemency of storms and severe cold; at night they now have a bed of straw upon the ground, and a single blanket to each man; they are badly clad and some are destitute of shoes. The snow is now [Jan. 6, 1780,] from four to six feet deep, which so obstructs the roads as to prevent our receiving a supply of provisions. For the last ten days we have received but two pounds of meat to a man, and we are frequently for six or eight days entirely destitute of meat, and then as long without bread. The consequence is, the soldiers are so enfeebled from hunger and cold as to be almost unable to perform their military duty or labor in constructing their huts.—*Dr. Thacker's Military Journal*.

<sup>3</sup>The winter of 1780 was one of remarkable severity. For forty days, thirty-one of which were the month of March, there was no perceptible thaw on the south-

men, was hailed with great joy throughout the country. The battle at King's Mountain, S. C., in which our forces were signally victorious, also caused great rejoicing; besides this, however, their military operations during the year were not calculated to afford the Patriots great encouragement.

The calls for men to increase and strengthen our army (1781) were imperious and equally so was the necessity of raising money for the purpose of paying bounties to those who enlisted and meeting other pressing demands upon the treasury of the town. These calls were responded to with as much willingness and promptitude as could be expected or required. The surrender of Cornwallis, with his army numbering about seven thousand, to the combined Patriot and French forces, at Yorktown, in October of this year, inspired feelings of gratulation and confidence throughout the Colonies and caused temporary forgetfulness of the multiplied sufferings and burdens endured in the past. The Patriots dared to hope that the contest was virtually ended, that the great object for the attainment of which they had hazarded so much was within their grasp and that British rule in the United States had forever ceased.

There were no important military movements during the following year (1782); it was, however, a period fraught with anxious fears as well as earnest hopes. Hostilities might be renewed at any time and the war protracted, still the belief was almost universally entertained that the strife was over; and such proved to be the fact, although the Treaty of Peace was not signed until the third of September, 1783, and the last of the British troops did not leave our shores until late in the autumn of that year.

The story of the Revolution is so generally well known that it may be thought quite unnecessary to occupy so much space in these

erly side of any house. The snow was so deep and hard that loaded teams passed over walls and fences in every direction. Says Hon. Bailey Bartlett in his journal: "Snow is so deep and drifted that in breaking a path on the Common we made an arch through a bank of snow and rode under the arch on horseback."—*Chase's History of Haverhill, Mass.*

<sup>3</sup>This year is rendered memorable for its "dark day," which occurred on the nineteenth of May. For a week or more the air had been very thick and heavy, and on the morning of the above-named day very black clouds were seen to rise suddenly and fast from the west, and soon covered all New England with almost total darkness. It was darkest from nine o'clock A. M. to half-past three P. M. About twelve, noon, fowls went to roost, frogs peeped, cattle went to their barns and night birds appeared. About midnight a breeze sprang up from the north-west and the darkness gradually disappeared. It was attributed to a thick smoke, which had been accumulating for several days, occasioned by extensive fires in Northern New Hampshire, where the people were making many new settlements.—*Chase's History of Haverhill, Mass.*



pages with remarks and details relating to this period in our national history, but we desire to refresh the memory of the reader in reference to the poverty, hardships and multiplied discouragements—the alternations of expectation and depression—which marked the days, months and years of that epoch fitly described by Thomas Paine in the words: “These are the times that try men’s souls.”

There are on the records of Wells copies of several votes, passed at different times, which as they stand recorded cannot be regarded otherwise than as derogatory to the characters of those through whose instrumentality they were adopted. They utter sentiments so completely at variance with those repeatedly expressed at other times in town meetings and in correspondence, and so thoroughly ignored by the action of the entire community excepting a few malcontents, that we are wholly unable to account for proceedings so ill-timed and unpatriotic. It may have been that for some cause—perhaps the occurrence of severe storms—these meetings were thinly attended, and that some ex-official with Loyalist tendencies improved the opportunity to harangue those present—not a dozen, we dare venture to affirm, author, officers and all other attendants—on the oppressiveness of the taxes and the hopelessness of a contest unequal and causing so much destitution and distress, and to follow his diatribe with the offering of one of these objectionable votes, for which he succeeded in obtaining the sanction of the meeting. That the mean, trickish and brazen-faced have, always and everywhere, been found in society is as strikingly true as is the declaration of Holy Writ, “The poor always ye have with you,” and these mean, trickish and brazen-faced ones, loud-voiced and meddlesome, are always ready to dictate to others in regard to their duties and obligations, themselves shrinking from all personal responsibility; are always wonderfully public-spirited when the measure they advocate will help them to prominent and remunerative positions, but *conscientiously* opposed to every such measure when it is to be carried out without magnifying their own importance or putting money into their own tills. Somehow it very frequently happens that such individuals, although almost universally distrusted and despised, manage, through appeals to personal prejudice or some other dishonorable method, to secure for themselves prominence and influence, which in a vast majority of cases are exerted mischievously and against the best interest of society.

We attribute these offensive votes to such influence. Does any one doubtingly inquire—why, then, did not the majority, in full

meeting, disavow and expunge from the records declarations so strongly tinged with peevishness and fault-finding? We cannot deny the pertinency of the inquiry and we admit that any attempt to answer it satisfactorily would be fruitless; nevertheless we are unwilling to believe that the inhabitants of the First and Second Parishes in Wells, or any considerable number of them, ever really sanctioned these votes, indicating, as they do, an almost heartless lack of appreciation of the privations and sufferings of their friends and neighbors who were on battlefields, or of sympathy for their families or near relatives at home who were eking out a precarious livelihood in their immediate vicinity. If there were, occasionally, during the long and bitterly contested conflict votes adopted at town meetings indicating weariness and petulance, they were exceptional; there never was really any abiding lack of sympathy for the soldier, nor the slightest disposition to withhold aid from or to take any backward step in the glorious work in which the Colonies were engaged. If in hours of despondency and irritation they used language unworthy patriotic citizens, perhaps some apology is found for them in the details of their embarrassments and trials, but no exonerating excuse can be imagined that can satisfactorily and entirely erase the stain which in consequence of their acts disfigures their records.

It is unfortunate that public mention was ever made of these votes, but inasmuch as this has been done, without the slightest idea, we are sure, that it was of doubtful expediency to do so, they can work no other harm than slightly tarnish the excellent reputation richly earned during the Revolutionary struggle by the First and Second Parishes of Wells. The subject would not have been mentioned here were it not for fear that, if permitted to pass without comment, gross injustice might be done by charging the action complained of to the people of Wells, while a very small number of its inhabitants were responsible therefor, and those unknown, without supporters, and we think we may safely say without respectability.

Of the thousands who fled, with maledictions on the Patriots, from New England to Canada, and sought protection on undisputed British soil, one only went from Wells. A few well-wishers to the cause, but lacking faith in its success and sadly deficient in courage, left the town for secluded interior settlements, where they hoped to avoid "war's alarms," and a few others, influenced by self-interest or because they were believers in the divine right of kings, at heart

Loyalists, remained at their homes, but with sealed lips. Very few towns, especially on the seaboard, evidenced greater unanimity than did the town of Wells in the hearty support of the doctrines and measures of the outspoken leaders of those who labored for the freedom of the Colonies from English domination.

We are abundantly sustained by the records of the town and by unquestioned tradition when we affirm that there never was a time, from the date of the destruction of the tea in Boston Harbor to the close of the great conflict, when the town of Wells could be classed with the doubtful or the lukewarm; its inhabitants (excepting, perhaps, a minority so insignificant in numbers and standing as to be unworthy consideration) were among the earliest to second, decidedly and nobly, the patriotic and revolutionary utterances at their Colony's capital, through committees of correspondence and well-considered resolutions, and when the hour for hostile and decisive action came, the call to arms here found capable and intrepid officers, brave and efficient soldiers, ready and willing to take their position at the front and to share the labors and dangers of the strife.

Our information is exceedingly defective in regard to persons who enlisted or were drafted for service in the Continental Army from the town of Wells. It is greatly to be regretted that so few muster rolls and other documents relating to men and events of that period have been preserved. It is not possible at this day to obtain a complete list of those who, at different dates during the war, occupied the proud position of soldiers in the great contest for the country's freedom. We wish it were in our power to present such a list to our readers, and also the date when each one of the number joined the army, in whose company and regiment he belonged, his compensation, where he was stationed and in what battles or skirmishes he participated; the names of those who were killed in action or died of disease, of those discharged as invalids or taken prisoners, all of which would form an interesting chapter in our town history; and these details would be doubly valuable if there could be added to them personal narratives and reminiscences written or dictated by those who were in active service. Muster rolls of companies raised to reinforce the army at Cambridge, in 1775, and for service on the coast and in other quarters have been preserved, but these are not accompanied by those details that would be highly prized, not only by descendants of the patriotic men who were among the earliest to rally in support of the rights of the Colonists, but by a large majority of other citizens.



We give the names of the soldiers in these companies who went into service from the Second Parish. Those marked thus \* are presumed to have been residents in this parish, but it is not positively known that they were. The following enlisted for the term of eight months in the company of Capt. James Hubbard and proceeded to Cambridge, where they remained until their term of service expired. Captain Hubbard died while at Cambridge.

James Hubbard, Captain,	Emmons, Obediah,
Joseph Churchill, Lieutenant,	Gillpatrick, James,
Nathaniel Cousens, Lieutenant,	Gillpatrick, Joshua,
Stephen Larrabee, Sergeant,	Gooch, Jedediah,
Samuel Burnham, Sergeant,	*Goodwin, Batholomew,
John Butland, Sergeant,	Hubbard, Dimon,
Thomas Wormwood, Corporal,	Kimball, John,
Remich Cole, Corporal,	Littlefield, Abraham,
Richard Gillpatrick, Corporal,	Littlefield, Joseph,
Jacob Blaisdell, Fifer,	Littlefield, Jotham,
John Webber, Drummer,	Maddox, Henry,
Banks, Jonathan,	*Magner, John,
Boothby, John, Jr.,	Ross, John,
*Chadbourne, Samuel,	*Storer, Amos,
Colburn, Rowllins,	Waterhouse, Samuel,
Cousens, Joseph,	Webber, Benjamin,
Currier, Edmund,	Webber, John, Jr.,
*Dagget, Joseph,	Wormwood, Abner,
Denney, John, Jr.,	Wormwood, Benjamin,
Emery, Job,	Wormwood, John.

The following were in Capt. Samuel Sawyer's company, who enlisted for the same length of time and were also stationed at Cambridge. Quite a number of these soldiers, at the expiration of the eight months for which they entered service, re-enlisted for one year. We think the members of this company named below belonged in the Second Parish.

Samuel Stevens, Ensign,	Barnes, Abraham,
John Littlefield, Sergeant,	Day, Nathaniel,
Joel Stevens, Corporal,	Jellison, William,
Nathan Kimball, Corporal,	Mitchell, John,
Joshua Taylor, Drummer,	Wormwood, Eli,
	Wormwood, James.

Of these, Stevens, ensign, re-enlisted for one year, as did Jonathan Banks, James Gillpatrick and Amos Storer, who had been in Captain Hubbard's company. Nathaniel Butland also joined the company.

Capt. Jesse Dorman, of Arundel, commanded a company in Col. Scamman's regiment at Cambridge in 1776. Ezekiel Wakefield, sergeant, John Hubbard and Abijah Wormwood, privates, were among those who enlisted with him and it is believed were residents in the Second Parish. Bradbury says of Dorman: "He was not without perils in war or in peace. In 1793 a violent tornado unroofed his house, and he with his bed and bedding was blown several rods from it. Three of his sons were in the army. He was a lieutenant in the old French war and wounded in the battle of Lake George in 1758."<sup>1</sup>

A regiment commanded by Col. John Frost, of Kittery, marched from Maine, in December, 1776, to Peek's Hill, in the State of New York. John Grant, then of Berwick, but subsequently of Kennebunk, was quartermaster of this regiment and Daniel Sewall, then of York, but afterward a resident of Kennebunk, was quartermaster sergeant.

Benjamin Lord, Dominicus Lord and Thomas Huff, soldiers in the Continental Army, resided in Arundel at the time of their enlistment, but became inhabitants of Kennebunk before the close of the war.

Tobias Lord (son of Tobias who came to Arundel from Rocky Hill, Berwick, in 1747) was captain of a company stationed at Falmouth (now Portland) in 1776. He died about 1807, aged 84. Five sons were in the army at different periods of the war; one of them was wounded and died at Quebec.

<sup>1</sup>A story of which Captain Dorman was the hero and which was universally credited was current in the boyhood days of the writer. The Captain was grievously afflicted with rheumatism. One bitterly cold morning he experienced great difficulty in getting out of bed and dressing; his old assailant was at his worst with cramps, aches and stiffness. He had been told that he needed, to effect a cure, "a sudden shock to the system, something to stir the blood thoroughly." The Captain bethought himself of this remedy and determined to give it a trial. Accordingly, as soon as his limbs became flexible, he started for the ocean, some four or five miles distant from his home, and did not halt until he was so far into the water that the breakers went over his head. After remaining there a few minutes, he retraced his steps and reached home with all his clothing completely frozen. Throwing aside his wet garments, giving his body a brisk rubbing and putting on dry clothes, he was at once "as lissome as a boy." He lived many years after this cold sea-water bath, but was never again visited by rheumatism. He died about 1800.

Tobias Lord, son of the foregoing, "resided at Moulton's Mills and was drafted from Sanford. He was a lieutenant in Capt. James Littlefield's company of Colonel Storer's regiment at the capture of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga, in 1777. He died at Kennebunk in 1808."

Capt. Joshua Nason, of Arundel, was at the capture of Burgoyne's army. He commanded a company in Colonel Storer's regiment at White Plains and Saratoga; three of his sons were in the same service, one of them a commissioned officer. He died about 1809.

Nathaniel Wakefield was a soldier in Capt. Josiah Davis's company, Colonel Prime's regiment, stationed at Portland in 1780. He died in 1836.

"An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," which gave to non-commissioned officers, musicians, mariners, marines or private soldiers, who served in the war for the term of nine months or longer, a pension of eight dollars per month for life, became a law March 18, 1818. This was the first general pension law passed by Congress; it applied, however, only to persons "in reduced circumstances."

The following is a list of the surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War residing in Wells in April, 1818. We have endeavored to make separate lists of those belonging to the First and to the Second Parishes, but do not claim that they are perfectly accurate.

*First Parish.*

Annis, Stephen,  
Bragdon, John,  
Butland, Nathan,  
Eaton, William,  
Goodwin, Paul,  
Hatch, Elijah,  
Houston, John, Jr.,  
Littlefield, Noah, Gen.,  
Ragnos, Samuel,  
Ricker, Stephen,  
Sawyer, Nathaniel,  
Stone, Isaac,  
Wheelwright, Samuel,

*Second Parish.*

Bourne, John,  
Cousens, Nathaniel, Maj.,  
Drown, Moses,  
Emerson, Samuel, Dr.,  
Emery, Job,  
Fisher, Jacob, Dr.,  
Gillpatrick, James,  
Gillpatrick, Joseph,  
Gooch, Jedediah,  
Grant, John,  
Jones, Thomas,  
Kimball, Nathan,  
Littlefield, Anthony,



Whitehouse, Samuel,  
Whitehouse, Stephen.

All the foregoing were  
in service *more* than nine  
months.

The following were in  
the service nine months.

Fish, Abner,  
Kimball, Benjamin,  
Morrison, Benjamin,  
Morrison, Josiah,  
Penny, Benjamin,  
Sherman, Isaac,  
Treadwell, Samuel,  
Warden, Thomas.

Littlefield, Jotham,  
Littlefield, Moses,  
Norman, John,  
Osborn, James,  
Thompson, David,  
Thompson, Richard,  
Towne, Joseph,  
Treadwell, Nathaniel,  
Varney, Francis,  
Webber, Jonathan,  
Wise, Daniel.

All the foregoing were  
in service *more* than nine  
months.

The following were in  
the service nine months.

Butland, John,  
Littlefield, Jacob,  
Shackford, Paul,  
Stevens, Moses.

At a town meeting held in Wells on the twenty-seventh day of April, 1780, "the Declaration of Rights and Frame of the Constitution formed and agreed upon by the Convention of this State was read, and thereupon the persons hereafter named were chosen a Committee to consider of the same and make report to the town." It is fair to presume that this committee was made up of the "leading men of the town" at the time; we insert their names with prefixes and suffixes: The Rev. Mr. Moses Hemmenway, the Rev. Mr. Daniel Little, Capt. Nathaniel Kimball, Mr. John Mitchell, Maj. Samuel Waterhouse, Mr. Benjamin Stevens, Nathaniel Wells, Esq., John Wheelwright, Esq., Dea. Benjamin Hatch, Mr. Amos Storer, Mr. John Maxwell, Mr. Jonathan Hatch, Capt. James Littlefield, Jr., Mr. Jeremiah Littlefield, third, Capt. Joseph Bragdon, Mr. Jeremiah Stevens, Capt. Hans Patten, Col. John Littlefield, Mr. Aaron Clark, Capt. Joseph Winn. The Rev. Mr. Hemmenway, as chairman, made a report at a subsequent meeting which was unanimously adopted, seventy-four voters being present. The report was a long but a very able document.

The first State election for the choice of governor, lieutenant governor and two counselors and senators under the new constitu-

tion was held on the fourth day of September, 1780. The votes in Wells for governor were eleven for James Bowdoin and seven for John Hancock; for lieutenant governor, ten for Hancock and five for Bowdoin; for two counselors and senators, Rushworth Jordan, fifteen, Nathaniel Wells, thirteen, scattering, four.

A vote of the town, at a meeting held July 19, 1781, levying a tax upon the inhabitants of "eleven hundred pounds hard money," concludes as follows: "and for making up any deficiency which has or may arise in former grants, by reason of the depreciation of the old continental currency, which tax shall be paid either in hard money or bills of credit of the new emission, resting on the funds of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at the rate of one dollar and seven-eighths of a dollar in said bills in lieu of one hard dollar."

On the first Monday in April, 1782, the second State election was held. John Hancock received thirty-one votes, the whole number thrown in Wells for governor, and Thomas Cushing, for lieutenant governor, thirty-one; for counselors and senators, Nathaniel Wells, twenty-one, Benjamin Chadbourn, fifteen, Edward Cutts, fifteen, and John Frost, three.

The inhabitants of Wells, on the first Monday in October, 1790, gave in their votes for a representative of the District of York, Cumberland, Lincoln, Washington and Hancock. Nathaniel Wells received twenty-nine and George Thacher two votes. At a second trial, in November, Wells received one hundred and twenty-three and Thacher five votes. At a third trial, January, 1791, Wells had one hundred forty-one and Thacher five votes. A fourth trial, in April, resulted as follows: Wells, one hundred four votes, Thacher, four, scattering, two, which resulted in the choice of Wells.

In November, 1792, the inhabitants of Wells gave in their votes "for three Representatives of the District of York, Cumberland, Lincoln, Hancock and Washington, one of whom being resident in the County of York, one in Cumberland and one in other parts of said District, to represent said District in Congress": (1) Nathaniel Wells had seventy-nine votes, George Thacher, nine. (2) Daniel Davis had fifty-four votes, David Mitchell, fifteen. (3) Henry Dearborn received forty-five votes, William Lithlow, twenty-one and Thomas Rice, twenty.

The said inhabitants also gave in their votes for three electors of president and vice president for the district above-named; eight persons were voted for; thirty-eight of one hundred and sixteen votes thrown were cast for Icabod Goodwin, Esq., the remainder for other candidates.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### ROADS.

Satisfactory evidence is found in ancient documents that as early as 1670 there was a path through the woods from Sayward's mill lot to the mouth of Kennebunk River, the initial of the present road from Mousam River, by way of Garden Street, thence to and through the Landing village by way of Towne's Bridge to John Mitchell's land and beyond.

July 1, 1679, the lot layers of Wells laid out a highway for the use of the town, six rods wide, "above the boom belonging to the [Mousam] mills and a stake drove down there near to a little old house upon the said land," (near the present residence of Mrs. J. W. Sargent), and so down by said mills to the landing place, and thence about twenty rods down the river to the "old stump" and "Rand's marsh."

May 17, 1681, grantees of land on Kennebunk River were required to leave four rods in width, the entire breadth of their lots, for a highway, but not till 1730 did the selectmen of Wells formally lay out the road thus provided for, beginning at the southwest side of Kennebunk River, fourscore rods up the river from the falls and mill standing thereon, and so down by the river eight rods wide "till it comes to the common flowing of the salt water to a landing place there, commonly called the Upper Landing Place."

May 14, 1692, the town voted that the grantees of the mill privilege at the Great Falls on Mousam River have "liberty and privilege of a convenient road . . . for the conveniency to transport to the salt water." This "liberty and privilege" was at once improved and a road was marked out and cleared, "fit for foot and cart," which we should infer followed a beaten path then existing; it does not appear, however, that it was regularly located. In 1720 the proprietors voted "that there be a road laid out from Coxhall down to old Mousam, as near as may be where the old road now goes, four rods wide." In 1765 the selectmen laid out a highway beginning at Coxhall line, near the head of the great gully, thence running down southeast to the road that goes from Upper (Middle) Mousam down to the mill pond above Mousam Mill, as



formerly laid out, and from said mill pond down to the country road at the heath (the cross road from Wakefield's at the Landing to Butland's on Sea Road), four rods wide from mill pond to the country road.

In 1713 and subsequent years, until a highway was formally laid out, grantees below William Larrabee, Jr., were required to leave four rods in width the entire breadth of their lots for a road.

In description of the bounds of a lot of land surveyed in 1742 we find: "on the southeast side of the road which leads to the saw-mill on the northern branch of Little River"; and in another surveyor's description of bounds, in 1743, we find: "lying a little below the Branch Mill, beginning at the lower side of the bridge, running down to the road that leads to the mill"; in 1771, a highway was laid out "from Little River Mill to Branch Mill and from the Branch Mill to the town road leading to Upper Mousam Mill."

In 1719, by order of Court, a jury consisting of twelve persons laid out a highway from Cape Neddock River to Saco Falls, through Wells, following the old path to Cole's Hill, Little River, Harriseeket to Mousam River and then "to Kennebunk River to the usual wading place below the mill, thence keeping the old road to Saco Lower Falls below the old fort." Marshall in his address at York says: "As early as 1699 I find a record of a country road from Wells, through Cape Neddock and York Village, to Berwick."

February 28, 1752, the town voted "that there shall be a road from the sea, up by John Webber's and Dr. Sayer's land and by the head of land of John Storer until it comes to land of John Butland and athwart as the old way goes to Nathaniel Wakefield's house [the cross road beginning a few rods below Robert Hatch's and running to the Port road, near the Brookings dwelling] and the old road to the meeting-house [at the Landing], and from the meeting-house as the old East road goes up by the easterly side of Thomas Cousens's house [on lot now Nathan Dane's homestead] to the country road" [the main thoroughfare from the west to Saco].

September 7, 1759, selectmen laid out a highway from Adam Ross's land on a south-southeast course, nearest as the old road now goes to the lower side of land of Samuel Littlefield, Jr., then running south-southwest nearest between Deacon Stephen Larrabee's and said Littlefield's lands to the mill lot and so on to Alewife Bridge, and thence south-southwest to Paul Shackford's property, between John Maddox's and Richard Thompson's land, so down by said Shackford's land to the old path, and thence to a small run in Colonel

Storer's mile square, then taking a south-southwest course to the road from the Great Falls and down said road to the Lower Mousam Mills, thence by the northeast side of Mousam River to Mousam Landing, where the salt water flows, and from said Mousam Mills the present thoroughfare to the meeting-house (at the Landing), past Mr. John Mitchell's land to the "Lower road [the Beach road], to be kept with gates or bars," then from land of Richard Boothby till it comes to Joseph Sayer's land, running equally between Webber and Sayer the length of said Sayer's line, by Mousam River to Colonel Storer's land, above the head of a great gully, and by said Storer's lower line to the road below James Hubbard's.

1760, the road was laid out, as formerly, from the top of Cole's Hill, by Samuel Clark's line, five rods wide, running northwest till it comes to the road that leads to Little River Mill, and thence as the road now goes to the bridge above said mill.

1761, there was laid out a highway from country road, near William Day's, to Daniel Littlefield's house, continuing northwest till it comes to land of John Cousens, Jr., near a small stone, then northerly by said Cousens's land to his southeast corner bounds, taking a northwesterly course to the river, about twenty rods above the second Mousam mill, crossing the river to the mill road running to the northwest corner of Obediah Littlefield's land, then thirty rods by said Littlefield's land, thence southeast to old Mousam road. This highway was laid out in compliance with a petition, dated February 21, 1761, for a road from old Mousam road to the second Mousam mill and thence to the country road. This is interesting, as it gives the names of the residents in the Cat Mousam, West Kennebunk and Alewife districts at that date:

John Cousens,	Anthony Littlefield,
John Cousens, Jr.,	Daniel Littlefield,
Benjamin Day,	Obediah Littlefield,
William Day,	Samuel Littlefield,
John Gillpatrick, Jr.,	Samuel Littlefield, Jr.
Samuel Gillpatrick,	John Maddox,
Nathaniel Kimball,	Benjamin Stevens,
Stephen Larrabee, Jr.,	John Wakefield, Jr.

This petition was also signed by Samuel Storer, John Cole, Samuel Jefferds, John Gooch and Nathaniel Clark, Jr., who were not inhabitants of the Second Parish, but interested in lands in the vicinity of the proposed road.

A town meeting was held May 20, 1771, to consider the petition of Edmund Currier, Joseph Hobbs and Ebenezer Rice that the town would discontinue the whole or any part of the road from the lower mill on Mousam River and by said river to a certain place formerly made use of for landing boards, etc., and make a grant of the same to said petitioners, together with the right of the town to the falls on that side of the river, for such compensation as may be "thought fit," for the purpose of "building an Iron Works or other mills." The town voted to discontinue three rods of said road (six rods wide) next to the river to within ten rods of the landing place, said discontinued part of the road to be granted to the petitioners, "they paying so much for the privilege as shall be thought reasonable." The committee made a verbal report at an adjourned meeting, a week later, that the aforesaid privilege, "if any right they have," is worth five pounds. Then a vote was put whether they accept it and it was passed in the negative. As there is no record of any further proceedings on the part of the town in reference to this petition, it has been supposed that the project failed, but it was not so. Documents exist which render it certain that this vote was not the final action of the town in regard to the subject, and this, in connection with subsequent transactions, leaves little room for doubt that at the same meeting the whole matter was left to the selectmen with the understanding that the transference asked for might be granted, provided the compensation therefor should considerably exceed the sum just proposed to the meeting and by it voted to be unsatisfactory. It is not known what were the terms agreed upon, but there is ample proof that such conveyance was made. Interesting facts relating to this matter will be found in the chapter following in the account given of the old iron works. Doubtless the whole proceeding was illegal. The committee made only a verbal report and no action of the town relating to this matter appears on the records, while votes of the town, at subsequent dates, make no reference to it in any form.

1771, there was laid out a road beginning at Thomas Goodwin's dwelling, running nearly as the road now goes to the lowest Little River mill privilege, and over the river north-northeast to Samuel Wells's land, then northeast by south to the house of John Maddox, Jr., then northeasterly to that of Nathaniel Gould, thence to the bridge adjoining Joshua Clark's marsh and over the marsh to the "common and undivided land."



It appears that the bridge over Kennebunk River built in 1772 was not the first built over that stream. *Bradbury* says that "Durrell's Bridge was built before 1751." In the warrant for town meeting in Wells dated May 16, 1765, is the following item:

"To consider a petition of a number of the inhabitants of said town [of Wells] that the town will accept of a bridge lately built over Kennebunk River, adjoining to land of Messrs. Walker and Wakefield, and acknowledge said bridge as a town bridge, and also a road from said bridge to the town road by the Rev. Mr. Little's meeting-house" [then at the Landing]. In the clerk's record of the proceedings at this meeting no allusion is made to this article; that it was called up and *some* action had upon it there can be no doubt, but whether favorable or adverse we are left to conjecture.

March 20, 1775, town accepts road leading through Alewife, beginning at a stone one rod from the eastern corner of Paul Shackford's fence, thence to northern corner of Obediah Littlefield's fence, by said Littlefield's to the town road leading to Upper Alewife; and also a road beginning at the town way near Mile Spring (so-called), in the dividing line between the lands of Joseph Storer and Ebenezer Rand, running northeast and east to lands of the widow Anna Shackley and the widow Mary Kimball, passing between the lands of said widows to James Ross's land, then southeast to lands of Nathaniel and Richard Kimball, and thence to the highway between the dwelling-houses of said Kimballs. Each road was three rods wide.

March 22, 1779, the town accepts highway laid out on petition of Jonathan Taylor, Samuel Stevens, Samuel Mitchell, Thomas Wormwood, John Cousens, Jr., Daniel Hatch, Daniel Taylor, Nathaniel Cousens, Benjamin Stevens and Nathaniel Hatch, beginning at county road, three rods east of Major Cousens's house (on west side of Mousam River), running north-northwest to bridge over Rankins's Creek, thence to Thomas Cousens's land till it comes up abreast of the High Landing, so-called, then northwest by west till it comes to the old road, which lies on the east side of said line, thence running as the road now goes till it comes to that leading to Middle Mousam Bridge; three rods wide.

December 5, 1780, laid out highway beginning at house of John Cousens, Jr., thence to brook between lands of John and Samuel Cousens, thence west-southwest and southwest to check of land laid out to heirs of Samuel Hatch and by said check to the commons and to Jonathan Littlefield's land.

Mach 25, 1785, laid out private way for use of Major Samuel Waterhouse, beginning at Adam Ross's southeast corner bounds, on highway, and running by lands of Adam and James Ross and others to corner of said Samuel Waterhouse's dwelling.

April 21, 1785, renewed bounds of road from Adam Ross's land. upon a southeast course, nearest as the old highway now goes to the lower side of land of Samuel Littlefield, Jr., then south-southwest nearest between lands of Stephen Larrabee, Jr., and heirs of Deacon Richard Kimball, equally, till it comes to that in possession of Capt. John Taylor, running between said Taylor's and Larrabee's lands over Alewife Bridge, and equally between Richard Thompson's and John Maddox's lands to the crotch of the road, till it comes to the second run in the mile square, then south-southwest to the road that comes from the Great Falls; three rods wide.

September 11, 1786, laid out highway beginning at Capt. James Ross's and at the town road, running between Ross's land and land of John Shackley, Jr., till it comes to Isaac and Nathaniel Kimball's lands and through them to the river, then up the river through said lands to land of Joel Larrabee, nearly as the road now goes, to John Shackley's land and to the south side of his woodshed, then to northwest side of his lot and northeast to a tree, turning in a north-westerly direction nearly as the path now goes through lands of John Taylor and Stephen Larrabee, Jr., to the county road; three rods wide.

May 12, 1794, town accepts highway beginning at the town way between lands of Ebenezer Coburn and Joel Larrabee, running southerly to Joseph Cousens's land, then between said Cousens's and Joseph Gillpatrick's lands out to the lane near Cousens's house, then through said Gillpatrick's land to Thomas Jones's land, to David Thompson's land, and across lands of Jones and Cousens to Mousam road; two rods wide.

May 2, 1796, town accepts road laid out on the petition of William Wormwood and others, beginning at Mousam Bridge, running southwest seventeen rods to or near William Jefferds's house, thence west and southwest ninety-nine rods, southeast ninety-five rods, southwest twenty-eight rods, southeast fifty-nine rods, southwest thirty-four rods to or near One Mile Brook; thence southeast one hundred fifty rods, southwest one hundred forty-seven rods to Henry Hart's land, southwest twenty-seven rods to Great Swamp, so-called; thence southwest one hundred seventy-one rods to "Gould's Causey"; four rods wide.

May, 1796, town accepts road beginning at a large rock by the watering brook near Ebenezer Coburn's house, thence running northerly one hundred twenty-four rods to the middle of the bridge at the end of the upper Kennebunk saw-mill; two rods wide.

A petition was presented at the August term (1796) of the "Court of General Sessions of the peace, then sitting at Waterborough, within and for York County," praying "for a highway to be laid out from the meeting-house at Kennebunk on a direct line to the road that leads to Alfred, to intersect the same about three-quarters of a mile from Mousam Bridge"; whereupon the Court then appointed a committee "to view the premises and consider the expediency of laying out the same," which committee reported at a session of the Court held November 12, 1796, "that a highway to be laid out as aforesaid will be of common convenience and utility," and the Court appointed Ichabod Goodwin, John Hovey, Jacob Bradbury, Joshua Hubbard and Joseph Chadbourn a committee to lay out said highway. This committee reported to the Court, October 10, 1797, that they had "laid out the road, as directed, through Mr. Joseph Storer's land, beginning at a stake set up near Mr. Osborne's house, and runs north fifty-three degrees, west one hundred and thirty-six rods to the road leading to Alfred, which line is the middle of the road, one and a half rods on each side of said line." Mr. Storer was awarded two hundred dollars for damages. This report was objected to by the town agent of Wells.<sup>1</sup> Afterward an agreement was made in writing between the said agent and the petitioners for the road, "that Wells will withdraw its objection, provided the petitioners will agree to make the road, at their own expense, passable, safe and convenient for travelers, and teamsters, giving to the town sufficient security for the faithful performance of their agreement, the sufficiency of said security" and of "the passableness, etc., of said road to be to the satisfaction and approbation of John Storer, Nathaniel Cousens and Benjamin Titcomb; . . . and Stephen Larrabee and John Taylor, in behalf of the petitioners, agree to perform the conditions aforesaid." The road was made passable during the year 1798. The town of Wells paid the damage awarded to Mr. Storer.

This is the highway (Fletcher Street) running from the main road (Main Street) at the Osborne store (as it formerly stood) to its

<sup>1</sup>The town agent was instructed by the town, November 6, 1797, "to oppose the acceptance of a highway ordered to be laid out from the meeting-house in the Second Parish, in said town, acrost Mr. Joseph Storer's field or meadow."



intersection with the Alfred road, opposite P. C. Wiggin's dwelling-house.

November 5, 1798, town accepts highway, laid out on petition of Isaac Emery and others, leading from the county road by Capt. John Brown's dwelling-house to John Mitchell's residence, beginning at the west corner of said Brown's dwelling (since known as the Kilham house, now owned and occupied by Charles F. Tarbox), leaving said county road three rods in width and running southwest twenty rods, opposite the southwest corner of the schoolhouse, then seventy-five rods to Mr. Titcomb's land, passing his house and orchard, fifty-six rods to John Fisk's land, eighty-five rods to Jacob Towne's land, nine rods to the middle of the bridge, thence through Towne's and Fisk's lands to that of Maddox, and so on to Samuel Towne's homestead and Mitchell's land, then to Captain Emery's residence and Job Emery's land, continuing through lands owned by Harding, Emery and Gooch, thence to John Mitchell's land, to his well; said highway to be three rods wide, "excepting the twenty-six rods passing Titcomb's house and orchard to be two and a half rods wide."

At a town meeting held in April, 1800, "a committee was appointed to examine Mousam River Bridge and report whether it is necessary to build a bridge over that in 1801, and if necessary in what manner and with what materials it shall be built." A committee was also appointed to confer with the town of Arundel respecting the building of a bridge over Kennebunk River, on the upper road; and another to confer with said town respecting the building of the lower bridge over Kennebunk River (Durrell's Bridge) and "fixing a draw" thereto, and that the selectmen be directed to appropriate such sums as they think proper to the building of the latter. (This bridge was rebuilt with a drawer in 1801.) At the same meeting a special tax of eight hundred dollars was raised, to be applied to the erecting and repairing of bridges.

"THE TURNPIKE." We do not find a record of the selectmen's return of the laying out of the road from Cole's Corner to Tavern Hill, usually spoken of as the turnpike, nor of its acceptance by the town. We cannot account for these omissions, inasmuch as the road was an important one and the building of it was strongly resisted by many of the inhabitants of Wells, especially those living at Harriseket and the Branch. It was undoubtedly laid out in 1801 or 1802 and built in 1803 and 1804. The following notes are

all we find in reference to it. May 7, 1804, it was voted that "Henry Hart, John Storer and Jacob Fisher be appointed a committee to draught a petition to the Court of general sessions of the peace to discontinue the road laid out from Benjamin Boothby's to Maj. William Jefferds's." It is not probable that this committee took any action in the matter. At a meeting held in April, 1805, the whole subject seems to have been finally disposed of by the adopting of the following: "On a representation respecting the new highway leading from Major Jefferds's to Benjamin Boothby's, Voted, that for advances in clearing said highway and building bridges that the selectmen do what is just and right," which was supplemented, at a subsequent meeting, by an explanatory vote "that the selectmen be judges of the value of the materials and labor done on the road."

The selectmen were directed by the town, in May, 1810, "to open or cause to be opened the townway from lower Mousam saw-mill to the landing place on Mousam River, at the head of tide water." (Mr. Joseph Storer had put up a fence, with bars, across the road, just below Mayall and Radcliff's factory.) The directions of the town were at once complied with. In 1815 Mr. Storer was permitted "to place a gate across" this road.

May, 1811, town accepts a road, about one hundred sixty rods in length, laid out on petition of Col. John Taylor and others, "beginning at the west corner of a lot of land formerly known as the Parsonage lot, by Alewife road, so-called, and near Ebenezer Taylor's, thence northeasterly to the middle of Kennebunk River"; two rods wide.

In consequence of a dispute between Mr. Joseph Storer (joint owner with his brother Clement, of Portsmouth, of the land adjoining) and the town authorities, as to their respective rights, a survey was made of a part of the highway on the easterly side of the Mousam in May, 1811, beginning at the county road, at the easterly end of Mousam Bridge, and running southeast fifty-seven rods by the river, then as the river runs, south, five rods, and southwest, by the river, nine rods, then southwest thirty-four rods to the creek; across by the mouth of the creek southeast by the river twelve rods, then southeast eight rods by the river, and southwest six rods, then northwest twenty rods or thereabouts to the old landing or building yard and Joseph Storer's land to the creek, passing the landing to a stake in the field, thence northwest fifty-seven rods to the county

road, and six rods to the first-mentioned bounds; six rods wide. The land adjoining this road, below the lower dam, was improved, during the warm months, as a pasture for cattle. Many persons in the neighborhood pastured their cows there, paying Mr. Storer for the privilege about nine dollars per head for the season. It was known until 1825 as "Storer's pasture," and thereafter as the "Factory pasture."

In compliance with a petition of citizens, in 1812, the ancient highway from Abial Kelley's land (now Joseph Sargent's) to the sea, by John Butland's land, was resurveyed, widened and straightened, "beginning in the center of the road by Abial Kelley's house, leading to the sea, and running between said Kelley's barn and Daniel Wise's barn southwest," by said Wise's and Kelley's lands, and by lands of Wise, Chadbourne Kelley, Wakefield and Larrabee, then southeast by Larrabee's land to land of John Butland and by Butland's land to Joseph Gooch's land, passing said Gooch's land to Jeremiah Gooch's land and to his dwelling-house, "it being two miles from said Kelley's to said Gooch's."

During the same year, 1812, on petition of Joseph Gillpatrick and others, the selectmen laid out a highway "beginning on west side of Alewife road and near a ledge of rocks," between lands of Ebenezer Coburn and Joel Larrabee, Jr., running southwest two hundred seventy-six rods to a stone in the ground, being the corner bounds of said Larrabee and Reuben Littlefield, thence eighty-eight and a half rods to Elisha Cousens's land, then south seventy-three rods to Cousens's lane, and southeast forty-three rods, being a rod and a half from the westerly corner of Thomas Jones's barn, continuing southwest forty rods and southeast one hundred ninety-three rods to Alfred road; two rods wide.

In 1814 the selectmen laid out a "road beginning on the south side of the canal, a little above a small island in the same," running northwest and west eighty-nine rods at the foot of Great Hill, continuing forty-four rods to a narrow beach, where the road is now traveled, and northwest one hundred ninety-seven rods to near the entrance to Widow Hart's lane, then northeast seventy-eight rods and northwest one hundred forty-eight rods to the road that leads to Kennebunk Wharf, thence seventy-eight rods, near the guidepost above Samuel Hart's land, thence thirty rods by Hart's field and twenty-six rods to the highway that leads from Gould's land to Bragdon's land and Kennebunk. "In part the bounds of an old road and in part altered and straightened the same"; three rods wide.



"Laid out and renewed the bounds of part of an ancient road on the seaboard in Wells: beginning at the northeast side of Little River, at the upper wading place, so-called, thence southeast fourteen rods and northeast one hundred eleven rods to the old road, near pitch pine trees, thence forty-eight rods to the old road, by the corner of Hart's land, thence as the road runs thirty-eight rods to two pitch pine trees standing near the widow Hart's lane, where the other road intersects the same; three rods wide." Approved November, 1814.

On petition of John Webber, Obadiah L. Webber, Elias Stevens, Obadiah Hatch, Jr., Samuel Mitchell, Ebenezer Mitchell, Philip Hatch, Daniel Stevens, Moses Littlefield and Aaron Littlefield, and representation of James Cousens, laid out highway beginning one and a half rods northeast from Obadiah Hatch's dwelling-house and running northwest by said Hatch's land, thence on different courses ninety-one and a half rods "to the road which has been formerly traveled in and now enclosed by said Cousens," thence seventy-nine rods by said Cousens's land till it intersects the road that crossed said Cousens's field, thence southwest fifty-two rods to Daniel Stevens's land, and thence two hundred ten rods, in different courses, to and by John Webber's land; three rods wide. Accepted May, 1817.

In pursuance of a vote of the town, directing the selectmen to examine the pathway over Great Hill and open the same, if upon inquiry and on examination they have authority to do so, said selectmen, in October, 1819, "surveyed an ancient road over Great Hill, bounded thus: beginning at a fence made across said road by William Jefferds, Jr., and in the bend of the road on the beach and running in the middle of the road (making the breadth of two rods on each side of the center of the road, being four rods in width), northeast fifty-three rods by land of said Jefferds, then southeast by same forty and one-half rods to a fence and stake, thence southeast along the seashore or wall to the end of the neck of land where John Gillespie lately lived." Said highway was laid out according to selectmen's statement and confirmed in the year 1674, and the courses and distances above named were confirmed by testimony of aged citizens present at the survey and by copies of grants of land bounded on the said highway.

## CHAPTER XV.

### SHIPBUILDING ON THE MOUSAM AND KENNEBUNK RIVERS—KENNEBUNK IRON WORKS.

Undoubtedly the small coaster that brought the workmen, with their tools, builders' hardware and perhaps some of the machinery to be used in the erection of Sayward's shanty and mills, about 1670, was the first vessel of considerable size that sailed upon the waters of the Mousam. Whether she was made fast near the large pine—a modicum of the stump of which is still visible, an object of interest to persons with antiquarian tastes—or a few rods farther up stream, at the foot of the falls, is not known; probably, however, her sails were furled and her hatches opened at the last-named spot. The vicinity of the large tree, at that time, must have been marsh land only.

From 1670 until 1688, when the mills were destroyed by the Indians, the stream was frequently visited by small coasters, which brought provisions and building materials, and, while the mills were in operation, for return cargoes carried lumber that had been manufactured there. The trade was almost exclusively with Boston. For eighteen years this miniature commerce between western ports and Mousam Landing was carried on quite profitably to all the parties concerned. Littlefield's mill, on the Kennebunk, was in operation from 1681 to 1688, and it is reasonable to suppose that a part of the company's needed supplies were received at Mousam Landing and that they shipped a part of their manufactured lumber thence, although it is well known that the operators of that mill rafted the larger part of their lumber down the Kennebunk to a point below the lower falls that could be conveniently reached by coasters. For many years, dating from the year last above named, Mousam Landing was unfrequented and all signs of its former activity had disappeared; but about 1730 it resumed its old-time business aspect. Tradition says that soon after this renewal of trade the vicinity of the big pine and thence up river was cleared, the bank raised, and thenceforward it was the favorite mooring place of vessels. Storer's and the middle mills and that at Great Falls

furnished a large quantity of lumber for exportation, while an increased population created a large demand for goods of various descriptions. How long this landing was the resort of coasters we are unable to say. The channel of the Mousam was wider and deeper then than now, but its course was even more circuitous than at present. Tradition makes no reference to the existence of a wharf or wharves at its landing place, nor have indications been discovered that would authorize the inference that any such structure had ever been built there. The harbor at the mouth of the Kennebunk possessed obvious advantages over that at Mousam Landing; a wharf (Mitchell's) had been built on the west side of the river as early as 1753, and it can hardly be supposed that its superior facilities would long be overlooked. The great freshet in 1755 carried away all the mills on the Mousam. This calamity, of course, almost entirely destroyed the coasting trade. A few years later, when new mills were in operation, it is certainly within the bounds of probability that the lumber they exported was carted to the lower part of the town and shipped thence. The additional cost of carting was more than counterbalanced by the saving in freight in consequence of the easier access to the harbor and the avoidance of the annoying detentions which must have been quite often experienced in passages up and down the Mousam. To use, however, the language of an old merchant at the Port, "while the Kennebunk harbor is a good one, it has the provoking disadvantage of requiring a foul weather wind to sail out of it." We think the Mousam Landing was not much frequented by coasters after 1755, but the loss of this trade was more than compensated by shipbuilding, which was prosecuted quite vigorously for a long time at the old mooring places and farther down the river.

Vessels were built at Saco, York, Kittery and Wells many years before a keel was laid on the banks of the Mousam. They were indispensable to the settlers on the coast, and the building of them must have been the earliest object that engaged their attention after lands and dwelling places had been secured. It would be interesting to know at which of these settlements the initial of the fishing and coasting vessels that have been launched from the shipyards in these towns was built and fitted for sea, but this cannot now be ascertained. It is not known when the first vessel was built on the Mousam, although we learn from tradition that it was of small tonnage and built by John Butland for a gentleman belonging in Newburyport, Mass. The shipyard was not far below Sergeant



Larrabee's fort, but no date is given. We have no data that throw additional light on the subject. John Butland was in the prime of life in 1730, had then been employed in shipyards west of us a number of years, and had acquired a good knowledge of the art—for which we are told he possessed a natural aptitude—that warranted him in undertaking, with perfect confidence, the position of master builder. That he was a well-qualified and thorough workman is amply proved by the fact that he was subsequently employed, by out-of-town parties, to build several other vessels, all of which were launched from building yards in the vicinity of the Larrabee settlement. John Butland, Sr., was not living in 1772; his son John was his successor in business. He built a vessel for Joseph Churchill in 1773-74. Churchill was a resident of Arundel in 1773, but moved to Kennebunk the following year and "kept a store where George Wise's house now stands." His contract with Butland (which was evidently written by Churchill) is an interesting document. It is therein declared "that the sd John for the consideration hereafter menchand promiseth and agreas with sd Joseph to Buld and Cumpletly finish sd Hull or Bodde of halve Dak topsall scooner of a Bout one hundred and twenty tons or ther a Bout of sd fowloring Dimenstions, fifty sevinging futt Kiel, twenty four futt Beme and nine futt or ten futt Holl as said Joseph shall Derict and find all the wood materials suteble for the same, Except such wood as the Block-maker shall stand in ned of and Deliver hir cumpletly finished below all forls or showls in Musum River by the fiveteenth day of August next insuing the sd scooner to be Bult with all Wite Oak above water and all good oak under water and to have two striks at the flour timber heads and one strik under the Wales of three inch Plank and all the out Bord Plank to be whit oak and not under two inches and a half thick, the seling plank to be of good oak, the Plank for the Dak to be of good whit pine of the lenth of the half Dak and two inches and a half thick, the Marss and Bowsplit to be good whit pine and of Deminshand as the sd Joseph shall derict, the spars of the best sprus, and the sd Joseph promiseth to pay the sd John two pounds thirteen shilings and four pence for each and every ton that sd scooner shall ton when bult, the pay to be in the fowloring maner, one fiveth part to be payd in cash, one quarter part in West indea goods, one quarter in provitions and the other part in English goods at as chepe a rate as the sd Joseph sales for cash pay, the Wes-india good and provitions to be of the fowloring prises—New England Rum to be tow shilings pr galon Mol<sup>s</sup> at one

shiling and eaght pence per galon, Cottin wool at one shiling and eaght pence per lb Coffee at one shiling and four pence pr pound Choclat at one shiling and six pence pr pound Corn at four shilings per bushill, Pork at four pound ten shilings and eaght pence pr barrill Cod Fish at seveingten shilings per quentell and the other articles of the provitions and Westindea goods to be at the same advarnse the pay to be at or before the time of delivery of the sd scooner.

"And to the true and faithfull performance of this Agremint and every part of the same the sd Partes bind and oblige themsilves the other to the other in the penel sum of four hundred pounds to be payd by the Parte faling to the Parte obsarveing the same. In witness wareof the sd Partes have hereunto Interchangable set there hands and seals this first day of November in the thirteenth year of his Majasties Raign annoque Domine 1773. Joseph Churchill [L. S.]"

Witnessed by Jacob Curtis, Jr., and Andrew Burley.

"N. B. It is furdur agred that the sd John shall be suplid with things as goods and pervisions as he shal corl for them."

During the war Butland built for Newburyport parties a privateer of about two hundred and forty tons burden and fitted to carry fourteen guns. We cannot learn whether she was successful or unfortunate in her ocean experience.

After our coasting trade had been transferred from the Mousam to the Kennebunk (about 1755), the neck of land south of the "creek" and running southwesterly from the road,—occasioning a bend in the river just at the foot of the falls,—which had been found an excellent place for piling lumber, as well as for the loading and unloading of coasters, was no longer needed for these purposes. It possessed, however, many advantages for shipbuilding and was used, more or less, for this industry until about 1795. Several small vessels were built here before the Revolutionary War, three or four during the war, and twelve or fifteen, here and on the opposite side of the river, after its close, probably nearly thirty in all. Major Nathaniel Cousens was the principal master builder at this point when not in the service of his country, but we do not know who held this position during the war; as there were several carpenters by the name of Bourn at the western end of the town, we think it quite probable it was one of these. Butland was fully employed in his own shipyard.

We have said in another place that the course of the Mousam was very circuitous; not only was this the fact, but there was a

sand bar at its mouth which was a serious obstruction. The residents in Mousam village very naturally viewed with regret the abandonment of their "landing" and the transference of its business to another part of the town. To regain their former trade was an object which they regarded as deserving their best efforts. If the course of the river were changed so that it would run without important curvature to the sea, it was believed that facilities for its navigation would be secured that would materially augment its advantages as a harbor and for shipbuilding; thus, with its prestige and the making of needed improvements, such as wharves, etc., it would largely promote the business interests of this part of the town. In furtherance of this object a stock company was formed which procured an act of incorporation from the Massachusetts Legislature of 1792. This not only authorized the making of a new outlet to the sea, but, also, the imposition of a toll on the various descriptions of lumber that might form a part or the whole of the lading of outward-bound vessels passing through their canal. The stock was rapidly taken up and the work was commenced in earnest the following year (1793). A dam was built nearly opposite the well-known Henry Hart place, and the Mousam, which for unknown centuries had disembogued its waters into the Atlantic by Hart's rocks, was compelled to obey the mandates of civilization's agents, to yield its channel to the sands of the shore and to pass through an outlet formed by man, in contemptuous disregard of Nature's handiwork. If we could imagine a Divinity of the Rivers, offended by this act, we could also imagine with what sweet complacency it must have witnessed the failure of the plans of those who had trespassed on its domain.

Many difficulties were encountered in the prosecution of the work of excavating a canal from the "turn" to the sea, on the east side of Great Hill, but the crowning trial was in the discovery of an extensive ledge, which presented an insuperable obstacle to the fruition of the hopes of all who were interested in the undertaking, unless, indeed, it should be removed at enormous cost. There were, however, no funds obtainable for this experiment, and if there had been there were grave doubts as to the advisability of deepening the channel at an expense so great. The project was a decided failure, the money expended by the stockholders was a dead loss, and the enterprise was abandoned. If the new outlet had been made on the western end of Great Hill, as it was originally designed that it should be, no serious difficulty would have been encountered and



it would have completely fulfilled the anticipations of its friends and projectors.

It seems incredible that good business men should have commenced work on the eastern end of the hill without first being assured of the entire feasibility of the route they had adopted; and it is equally surprising that, when so much was at stake and such an amount of available work had been done, when they knew that there was no serious obstruction at the western end, and, moreover, that the cost would be comparatively trifling, they should have yielded so readily to discouragement. The modern methods of assessments and bond issuing could not have been in vogue in those days.

To what extent this untoward event retarded the growth and prosperity of the village is a problem that it would be useless to consider. This we do know, however, that with a channel that would permit the ingress and egress of vessels of four hundred tons, or even of three hundred tons burden, with shipyards on the banks of the river where vessels of the largest size named could be built and fitted for sea, with commodious wharves, in the vicinity of the "creek," where vessels of all sizes under that tonnage could be amply accommodated, and where could be landed and whence could be shipped a fair proportion of all the lumber manufactured at our mills or brought here from the interior towns, with such facilities there would have been sources of prosperity within the borders of the village that must have caused it to increase much more rapidly than it has in population and wealth.

Soon after the workmen had commenced operations at the mouth of the river, the Storer brothers, in full confidence that a new and desirable outlet would be secured, contracted with Butland for the building of a ship of about three hundred tons burden, which was completed shortly after the disastrous termination of labor on the canal. She was launched and taken down the river, but the ledge was a fearful barrier; for awhile it was believed that she could not be floated over it. At length, after much labor and expense, the obstacle was surmounted, but not without considerable damage to the ship. Possibly, after this mischance, a few small vessels were built on the river, but we think not; from that time to the present no attempt of the kind has been made. The navigation of the Mousam, through the many years that have elapsed since Storer's

ship passed through the canal, has been confined to gondolas, chebacco boats and yawls.

A short time after the canal had been excavated, Capt. Benjamin Dickson and one or two associates built a schooner of between sixty and eighty tons burden on the Two Acres; she was successfully launched and was named "Two Acres." The shipyard was nearly opposite the present site of John R. Bean's cottage. We do not know what became of the vessel.

While the events we have been narrating were in progress on the Mousam, the Kennebunk had been gradually increasing in importance as a harbor and several shipyards had been established, its banks affording eligible sites therefor. As we have before stated, a schooner was built at the Harbor in 1755. At the Landing a schooner was built in 1766, a sloop in 1767; the building of other small vessels followed in succeeding years; a brig was commenced in 1773, the first vessel of more than one hundred tons that had been built on the river. After shipbuilding had been abandoned on the Mousam, this branch of business centered for many ensuing years at Kennebunk Landing; sloops, schooners, brigs, barks and ships were built there, but the largest were of small tonnage compared with those that were afterward required. The first exceeding three hundred tons was built in 1805; the first exceeding four hundred tons in 1811—the Rubicon, built by William Jellerson for William Gray, of Boston. In 1815 Hugh McCulloch built a ship of four hundred thirty-nine tons—the Sabine. No vessel exceeding this tonnage was built on the river until after 1820. We shall devote a chapter to the shipping interests of the town, after its incorporation, in the second part of this work.

The following extracts from a document that has been loaned the author will be interesting to many readers.

"Kennebunk, in the District of Biddeford and Pepperelborough, . . . Jeremiah Hill, Collector. Nov. 11, 1795."

"James Kimball, owner of the Snow Alexander, 145 tons burthen, of Kennebunk, Benj. Stone, master, bound to St. Vincents,—Capt. Benj. Dighton letten to freight  $\frac{1}{2}$  of said Snow for 8s. per ton, with charge of victualling and manning, port charges and pilotage. Witness, Charles W. Williams."

Kennebunk and Wells had always formed a part of the Collection District of Biddeford and Pepperelborough, with the custom house at Biddeford, since the establishment of collection districts by the Government. In 1795 the tonnage belonging to the first-

named ports constituted much the larger part of the whole amount owned in the entire district. It was both inconvenient and expensive for persons in these towns who had occasion to do business at the custom house to travel to Biddeford<sup>1</sup> for this purpose, and it was determined to petition Congress to make of them an independent district, with the custom house at Kennebunk. A petition asking for this action was presented in Congress in 1799, and with it and in support of its prayer a list of the vessels belonging to these ports in 1798, together with estimates of the miles of travel and expense to which persons therein who were engaged in navigation were unnecessarily subjected by the arrangement. Probably most of the vessels belonging to the Port of Kennebunk which traversed the ocean to the West Indies were built at Kennebunk Landing, while a few were launched on the Mousam River.<sup>2</sup> A synopsis of the papers petitioning Congress we are enabled to furnish.

"Thirty-six vessels are employed in the West India trade, which on an average make three voyages per annum, or one hundred and eight voyages per annum. The owners of these vessels on an average live twelve miles from the nearest office of entry. Necessary travel for each voyage, of owner, master and bondsmen, one hundred and ninety-two miles, making a total for the one hundred and eight voyages of twenty thousand seven hundred and thirty-six

<sup>1</sup>The author wrote to Edward P. Burnham, Esq., of Saco, inquiring whether evidence existed that at any time the custom house was located at Biddeford. Mr. Burnham found it difficult to obtain the desired information, but at length "learned from Hon. John Hartley, whose wife is a granddaughter of Jeremiah Hill, who was collector from 1789 to 1809, that the custom house was kept, between these dates, at Biddeford, at the corner of the main street and that leading by Capt. White's to the old bridge. Hon. George Thacher, of Biddeford, was Representative in the old Congress in 1788 and of the U. S. Congress from 1789 to 1801, and was probably instrumental in creating and naming the district as well as in procuring the appointment of the first collector" [Mr. Hill]. The custom house during the Revolutionary War and thereafter until 1789, was kept in Saco, under authority of the Massachusetts Colonial Government and of the State of Massachusetts; Nathaniel Scammon, Collector. "The two principal wharves were in Saco" and the most important shipyard on the river, that of James Coffin, was on the Saco side, whence the larger part of the vessels built on the Saco were launched.

<sup>2</sup>The names of some of the vessels belonging to Kennebunk employed in the West India voyages and coasting, also the average tonnage of the various craft, may be of interest to some. Alexandra, Almira, America, Atlantic, Betsey Jane, Clothier, Commerce, Despatch, Experiment, Fame, Fox, Franklin, Friendship, Hannah, Hope, Horation, Industry, Lively, Mercury, Morning Star, Olive, Packet, Panther, Paragon, Phenix, Pollas, Polly, Rainbow, Relief, Sally, Sea Flower, Success, Tuxton, Venus, Volan and William. Five ships were employed with an average of 200½ tons each, seventeen brigs average 137½ tons, seven schooners average 108 tons, three sloops average tonnage 77, also one bark of 140 tons. Among the coasters in service were nine schooners, average 55½ tons, and four sloops with an average tonnage of 53½.



miles." To this must be added necessary travel for obtaining documents required for exportation of goods, for endorsing and renewing registers and licenses, etc. Also must be added cost of "one day's demurrage on each voyage, expense of crew before permit can be obtained to break bulk, and one day after vessel is fit for sea to obtain clearance papers."

The before-named petition received the favorable action of Congress. A new collection district, composed of the towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells, was established in 1800, under the title of "Port and District of Kennebunk," and Jonas Clark received the appointment of collector of the customs, which office he continued to hold until May, 1810. The first custom house was a small, one-story building, situated opposite the site of the dwelling-house for many years occupied by the late Joseph Porter. It had been built several years previous by Clark and Condry for a store, and was occupied by them as such perhaps eight or ten years. Condry, of whom very little is known, left town, it is thought, prior to 1800. In 1808 the above-named building was removed to the top of the hill, about a rod from the street, where it stood for many years. It was the custom house until May, 1810, when Clark was succeeded in the office of collector by Joseph Storer. During Clark's term of office his deputies were Henry Clark (his brother) and Seth Burnham.

Storer removed the custom house to his store, then the third one from the mill yard, on the lot between the main street and that now known as Garden Street. Here it remained until May 2, 1815, when it was removed to the Port, occupying the chambers over the bank, in the brick building that had then (1813) been recently erected by the "Kennebunk Bank" corporation. After the bank had relinquished business, in 1831, the collector leased the room on the lower floor which had been occupied for banking purposes. The Government subsequently purchased this building and paid therefor about eighteen hundred dollars, less than half the original cost. Mr. Storer held the office sixteen years. His deputy during the whole term was George Wheelwright.

From 1800 to 1820 (excepting, of course, the years signalized by the embargo and other war-menacing measures and those during which the country was engaged in war with Great Britain) ship-building was prosecuted with considerable energy on the Kennebunk River<sup>1</sup> and the West India trade was active and remunerative.

<sup>1</sup> Between the years 1800 and 1820 there were built in Kennebunk thirty ships, ninety-seven brigs, twenty-seven schooners and eleven sloops, besides a number of snows, barks and boats.

The leading industries had been navigation and shipbuilding and both had yielded the most satisfactory returns. As they prospered, so prospered all other branches of business: farmers found a ready market for their surplus products; the labor of mechanics of all kinds was in request; lumbermen and mill men were constantly employed, and traders purchased and disposed of larger stocks of goods than they had at any time previously been accustomed to handle. The great change that was wrought by the declaration of war cannot now be easily imagined,—the cessation of shipbuilding, wharves showing no signs of activity, the shipping belonging to the port dismantled and taken up river where it could not be seen by the enemy's cruisers, mechanics, seamen and laborers without employment, the sales by farmers and traders seriously diminished,—indeed a universal prostration of business. In the midst of all this desolation and discouragement came a direct tax, levied by the National Government upon the people, which was exceedingly onerous. In the language of an old gentleman who was describing the situation to the author, "to the owners of small tenements and small farms it was like taking away and selling the crutches of the lame man and leaving him entirely helpless." A great many farmers, of limited means, found it impossible to pay these taxes. Then came the "distress." The buildings and lands were advertised to be sold at auction, or such part of them as would produce a sufficient amount to pay the tax assessed thereon, with the cost of advertising, marshal's fees, etc. A great many farms were so encumbered. We presume, however, that in no case was the owner of a farm deprived of his home or seriously embarrassed even by these proceedings. Usually, at these sales, a friend or neighbor would bid the sum necessary to satisfy the demand and hold the marshal's certificate of payment until the owner could make it convenient to take it up. Sometimes simple interest would be charged for the accommodation; sometimes, and not rarely we are told, a Shylock would improve the opportunity for obtaining exorbitant interest, but frequently no charge would be made. These troubles were not of long continuance, but were severely felt by all classes of citizens, especially those of limited means, while they did last. There were very many of the latter who found it difficult to obtain a sufficiency of food for their families and themselves from day to day, and the owners of vessels, who were accounted wealthy, saw their property rapidly diminishing in value in consequence of lying idle and exposed during the two and a half years that it had been dis-

mantled and crowded in with other vessels in the river. We may well suppose that the news of peace was gladly welcomed by rich and poor. All went to work with a will. The dismantled shipping was repaired and fitted for service, the shipyards were bestrewn with timber which the carpenters were fashioning into frames, and on the wharves industry had resumed its sway. The *Visitor* renewed the publication of ship news, under the head of "Renewal of Trade," in its issue dated March 25, 1815, as follows: "Cleared from our Custom House, 23d, ship George, Nason, for West Indies, and brig Juno, Smith, for Norfolk, Va."

A majority of the early settlers in the town located themselves within the present Landing and Port Districts. The tide-water rivers, with their intervalles, and especially with the facilities they afforded for reaching the ocean and the contiguous marshes, valuable for the grasses they bore, and flats, where were hidden the "treasures of the sand" so gratefully acknowledged by our Puritan progenitors and which our forefathers denominated "the poor man's meat barrel," together with the abundance of eatable birds and the "immovable fishes" that could easily be taken, offered inducements to the poor man that he could not fail to appreciate. If his crops failed, he had wherewith to sustain life at his very door; if his land was poor, the sea washed upon the shore, the rocks had attached to them and the marshes afforded full supplies of weeds and soil rich in fertilizing qualities. Hence it was that for more than a quarter of a century—some twelve or fifteen years preceding and as long a time succeeding 1750—this section of the Kennebunk territory exercised a controlling influence in the determination of all subjects of public interest. In all these years, however, the Village, Alewife, the Plains and Cat Mousam had been gradually advancing in population and wealth, so that about 1765 the first-named districts had lost their preponderancy. Among the early settlers in these districts were sterling men, lovers of good order, industrious and public-spirited, but they did not relish being outnumbered by those who had hitherto been in the minority, and thus it was that differences arose and that for a season there was a lack of the harmony and good fellowship between them and the other districts which had prevailed at a former period. True it is, that "mankind is the same in every age," and that love of power, even in matters utterly insignificant, has always been a source of discord, and while it has always been admitted by considerate persons to be an indication of weak-mindedness has, nevertheless, always been held, by the worthy



and the unworthy, with tenacious grasp. The wave of prosperity that visited the good people of all these districts during the last decade of the eighteenth century, in the forms of shipbuilding and of becoming a sort of *entrepot* for the landing of lumber designed for shipment from the Port, obliterated all jealousies and established the more desirable condition of "working together in unity."

We resume—after a digression perhaps not untimely—the history of shipbuilding on the Kennebunk and of navigation in our collection district.

*Bradbury*, in his History, furnishes "facts and figures" that show the importance of our collection district from the date of its establishment to the year 1813. The amount of duties collected enables us to form a good idea of the value of our imports (chiefly rum, molasses and sugar) and also of the value of our exports, as the commodities imported were mainly either received in exchange for, or purchased with money derived from sales of, the lumber exported. The amount of duties collected in the district in 1806 was \$81,273; in 1807, \$52,642; in 1811, \$86,441, and in 1812, \$119,850; and (notwithstanding the embargo) for the ten years after the district was established the whole amount was about \$500,000. Many vessels belonging to persons in Kennebunk and Arundel discharged their cargoes in Boston and other ports, thus depriving our district of the credit of probably one-half the amount of duties paid by its citizens on commodities brought to this country by vessels belonging to and hailing from this port. "Besides West India vessels, in which these imports were principally made, a large amount of property was invested in freighting ships which usually entered in ballast. The tonnage belonging in the district in 1810 was 8,552."

Shipbuilding at Kennebunk Landing was vigorously renewed within a very few weeks after the news of peace had been received. Timber was brought in from different schooners of our own town and from the interior towns in large quantities, as were boards, staves, hoop poles and all the varieties of lumber usually shipped from our port. There was a shipyard back of Nathaniel Gillpatrick's house—now owned and occupied by Thomas Crocker—where Gillpatrick built vessels; another back of John T. Brown's house—the "Parson Little house"—which was operated by David Little; a third and fourth opposite the lot now occupied by the house owned and occupied by John Stevens and the one back of the schoolhouse, operated by Jacob Perkins and George and Ivory Lord, known in

later years as "Titcomb's shipyard"; another back of the site of Mark Pool's house, occupied by Timothy Kezer, and one below Durrell's Bridge operated by Hugh McCulloch. As was the practice for several years before the war, timber and other building materials were landed all along the road in the vicinity of these shipyards. Boards and other lumber, for shipping, were also piled along the road, but chiefly between the present residence of Charles F. Tarbox and Durrell's Bridge.<sup>1</sup> This lumber was conveyed down the river in gondolas, which were laid alongside or at the bow of the vessel that was to take it on board and passed through the port holes or on to the deck.

#### IRON WORKS.

The manufacture of iron from the ore and of various implements made of iron was for several years an important and successful industry in our town. Several enterprising citizens formed in 1770 for this purpose a company, by which the work was prosecuted energetically. A dam was built at the lower falls, at the head of tide water, and a large one-story building, wherein were two forges, was erected before the close of the year 1771. The necessary tools for the manufacture of iron from the ore were provided, and early in the spring of 1772 the works were in full operation. Some of the ore was obtained within the town, but mostly from Maryland Ridge and Sanford. We do not know the average yield of iron (after being separated from extraneous substances) from a ton of ore. It was not very rich, however. It was worth from two to four dollars per ton, according to its richness. The iron was forged into bars, weighing from fifteen to twenty-five pounds each, and the best of it sold readily for six cents per pound. For smelting, wood charcoal, which was plenty and cheap, was used. Vast improvements have been made in this manufacture since that period.

It must be borne in mind by the reader that, at the time these works were erected, the island in the rear of the leatherboard buildings had not been disconnected from the mainland, but was a small neck of land running from the road to the river. The water subsequently worked a passage through the eastern portion of this neck, thus forming an island. On the western end of this neck (now the

<sup>1</sup>In the *Visitor* of September 13, 1811, Jeremiah Paul, surveyor, gives notice "that the highway leading from Kennebunk meeting-house to Durrell's Bridge is in many places so much incumbered with masts, spars, ship timber and other kinds of timber and lumber that in many places it is rendered almost impossible for teams and carriages to pass. He therefore warns all persons interested that if such incumbrances are not removed within fourteen days from date he shall, at the expiration of the time mentioned, remove the same and sell as much thereof at public auction as will pay the expenses of removing the same."

island) was the iron works building, and near to it was a grist-mill, the precise location of which cannot now be determined. Probably the grist-mill was not operated by the Iron Works Company, but by a separate organization, which hired lot and water power of the Iron Works Company, among the proprietors of which were several members of the "Corn Mill Co." We derive our authority for these statements, chiefly, from deeds of undivided parts of this property to James Kimball. We give below extracts from these conveyances.

Joseph Hobbs to James Kimball, February 18, 1773, conveys one-sixteenth part of building, dam, bellows, hammer, anvil, etc., "one-sixteenth part of privilege of building, repairing, improving any mill or dam where said iron works now stands, also one-sixteenth part of privilege of building and improving any mills or dams on the eastern side of said river, from the landing below said mill up said river within eight rods of the new bridge; also one-sixteenth part of three rods of land in breadth adjoining to said river, and in length from said landing up within eight rods of said bridge on the eastern side of the river." This conveyance excludes "the privelege heretofor conveyed for Grist Mill." Consideration about sixty-seven dollars.

Moses Blaisdell, "forgeman," January 19, 1785, conveys to Kimball "three days' right in a month of the Iron Works that I bought of Dr. Rice, with privilege of building," etc., "excluding the grist mill and the privilege thereof, until the water runs over the dam on which the works now stand"; and Jacob Blaisdell, "forgeman," conveys to said Kimball "one day's right in said Iron Works."

Jacob Curtis, April 15, 1785, conveys to Kimball "one-twelfth part of land on northeast side of and adjoining Mousam River, from County road at Mousam Bridge, three rods in width, to twenty rods from Mousam Landing, excepting only a Grist Mill and privilege for a grist mill or other water works where said Grist Mill now stands; also, one-sixth of the shore-forge of a certain Iron Works Mill, standing on the land and river aforesaid, with part of the tools thereunto belonging, that is four days in a month."

Daniel Merrill, July 18, 1790, conveys to Kimball "two-sixteenths of Iron Works and privilege extending as far up as the head of the Iron Works pond, with the privilege of passing and re-passing to and from said works laid out for said purpose," excepting one-sixteenth of the three rods road previously conveyed, "and the privilege of the old grist mill and gate." Samuel Mitchell and Samuel Gillpatrick also conveyed to Kimball, May 29, 1800, shares in the iron works, privileges, etc.



These works were successfully operated for about ten years. The ore in this vicinity, at the end of this time, had diminished materially in quantity and deteriorated considerably in quality, so that it was no longer profitable to operate them. It is apparent that there was no lack of energy or good management on the part of the proprietors, and that the discontinuance of labor there was unavoidable. Kimball probably could do better with the tools than any other one of the proprietors, as his blacksmith's shop was then in full operation, and it was hoped, doubtless, that the buildings, privileges, etc., might be advantageously improved at no distant day. The freshet of 1785 carried away the dam and shattered the shops, thus destroying all hopes of future usefulness. Indeed it would not appear that strong faith was at any time entertained in the value of the property, inasmuch as Mr. Kimball neglected, in most cases, to procure the acknowledgment of the deeds or to cause them to be recorded.

We have very little of the history of the grist-mill. It is not an unlikely supposition that the freshet that carried away the dam seriously shattered the building and necessitated its removal.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE JUDICIAL COURTS.

We infer that the inhabitants of Gorges's province were a "law unto themselves" prior to 1636. In that year the first organized government was formed by the appointment of a governor and several persons as counselors, whose commissions authorized them to exercise all the powers—whether executive, legislative or judicial—and to perform all the duties that might be required for its efficient administration. These officers were called upon, very soon after they had been qualified, to hear and decide, in their judicial capacity, several civil and criminal causes. Their "docket," it would seem, was well filled at an early day. In the then heterogenous population the ignorant, restless, turbulent and vindictive were largely represented; there were many who hungered and thirsted for *the law* and who appeared to have attained the highest degree of happiness when they had "a case in court." When, four years later, the first regularly organized court in Maine was established—"the Supreme Court of Judicature," which was to meet every month—there was no lack of business before the judges. Its first session was held at Biddeford. Most of the cases were of a trivial character, indicating a low and undesirable condition of society. At one court actions would be brought against persons for drunkenness, swearing, tattling, libidinous conduct, neglecting public worship, desecration of the Lord's day and other misdemeanors, which would be heard and decided (there were no jury trials at these courts), and perhaps the next month the complainants in the cases thus disposed of would be arraigned for like offenses, on complaint of those who had been convicted at the preceding term. Their "worshipful honors," the judges, generally found sufficient cause for adjudging *all* the persons against whom complaints had been made to be guilty of the alleged misdemeanors and imposed fines or other penalties upon the offenders according to the gravity of the offenses of which they were respectively adjudged guilty.

When the province was divided into two counties (1640-41), with York as the shire town of the western, and Saco the shire town

of the eastern county as well as the place where a general court for both counties was to be annually held, county courts were at once established in each district. The more important causes in the western district, or York shire, were tried at the court held in York, while those which at the present day would be called justice's court causes were tried at courts held in Wells and Kittery. This arrangement of the judiciary system continued until 1653, when, under the sway of Massachusetts, a different order of things prevailed.

From the date—1652-53—when the Massachusetts commissioners assumed its government, to 1760, when the counties of Cumberland and Lincoln were formed, York County embraced the entire Province of Maine. Among the first acts of these commissioners was the organization of a court, "the first session of which was held in York in 1653, and was presided over by a chief justice and four assistants, who were men of learning, sound judgment and acknowledged integrity. The court room, which was the meeting-house, was then reached by a mere path, on either side of which stood the stately pine, the majestic oak and other monarchs of the forest."<sup>1</sup>

A term of the court was held annually, perhaps oftener, at Wells from 1668 to 1716. The sessions were usually held at the tavern of Samuel Austin, on the site of which the house of the late John Storer was afterward erected (between Cole's Corner and Wells's Corner). Storer kept a public house. It was torn down many years ago. Occasional sessions of the court were held at private houses, nearer Ogunquit, on the York road. A term of the court was also held annually in Kittery between the years 1653-1716. Courts were likewise held in Saco and Scarborough within these dates.<sup>2</sup>

The inhabitants of Wells, especially those in the eastern section of the town, were much dissatisfied when, in 1716, York was made the shire town of the county. Terms of one or more of the courts having been held annually for so many years in their town, and it being undeniable that it was much more centrally located than York, they regarded it as not only onerous but unjust that the people of the entire county should be compelled to travel very nearly

<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel G. Marshall's address at the dedication of the new Town Hall in York, February 23, 1874.

<sup>2</sup> "In 1716 York was made the shire town or place for holding all the courts and keeping the registry of deeds for the whole Province of Maine, by order of the Legislature of Massachusetts [which position it held about nineteen years, to 1735]; then shire town with Portland of the whole Province from 1735 to 1760; then shire town of the County of York from 1760 to 1802, when Alfred was made a shire town with York."—*Marshall's Address*.



to its southern boundary to attend the courts or to transact business at the registry of deeds or other county offices. It seems that the declaration in the foregoing that "all the courts" were to be held at York was not entirely correct, for we find that the town of Wells voted, "January 6, 1774, to petition the General Court to remove the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, then annually held at Biddeford in October, to Wells," but the prayer of this petition was not granted. How long this court was continued in Biddeford we are unable to say. After Kennebunk had been incorporated as the Second Parish and had attained somewhat of prominence on account of its increasing population and as a business center, efforts were made to remove the judicial courts, in part or in whole, to this precinct; but, so far as can now be ascertained, these efforts were confined to the adopting of votes in town meeting, from time to time, favoring such action, or, when questions relating to the location of the county courts were submitted to the people, by the giving of strong votes against any proposition opposed to the object for which they were laboring. They do not appear to have taken hold of the work with the vigor and determination essential to success. It is apparent that "they did not do what they could." Wells was an influential town and Kennebunk was undeniably an excellent location; the town was not lacking in men of energy, of means and of intelligence, but for some reason that cannot now be divined, they permitted themselves to be outgeneraled by the more active and persevering efforts of the advocates of their establishment elsewhere. We copy the votes in reference to this measure which were adopted at different times.

At a town meeting held on the seventh day of November, 1796, the inhabitants there assembled, fifty-nine in number, voted unanimously that, in their opinion, it is for the interest of the County of York that the Supreme Judicial Court should be removed from York to Kennebunk as the most convenient place for holding the same.

November 6, 1797, voted that Jonas Clark, Joseph Hubbard and Nahum Morrill are hereby appointed delegates to attend the County Convention to be held at the dwelling-house of Levi Rogers, in Berwick, on the third day of May, 1798, for the purpose of consulting and deliberating upon the expediency of removing the Supreme Judicial Court from York to some more central and convenient place. [We have no means of ascertaining how many delegates attended this convention or the result of its deliberations.]

The subject of the removal of a part of the terms of the judicial

courts from York to Kennebunk or Alfred had been so frequently brought before the Legislature of Massachusetts, that, in 1799, a committee was appointed by that body to visit these towns with the view of ascertaining which of the two last named "was the most eligible place for the permanent establishment of the courts." This committee attended to the duty assigned them and reported unanimously in favor of Kennebunk, which report was accepted, and by order of the Legislature a part of the terms of the courts was held in Kennebunk<sup>1</sup> in the years 1800, 1801 and 1802, and this town (or parish) became a half-shire town of the County of York. In 1802 the friends of Alfred again brought the subject before the Legislature by petitions for the removal of the courts from Kennebunk to Alfred. The Legislature, by a strong vote, decided in favor of retaining them in Kennebunk, but this decision was reversed by the same Legislature. The manner in which this remarkable operation was performed is thus described by a correspondent of the *Gazette*: "The subject was suffered quietly to slumber until the representatives from this part of the county had returned to their homes. The representative from Alfred then contrived to have the subject again called up and by a *single vote* obtained an act in favor of the location at Alfred." Alfred accordingly became a half-shire town in 1802. The people of Kennebunk, and those in the neighboring towns in favor of the location of the courts here, appear to have submitted to this extraordinary legislation without remonstrance. The only action taken in reference to this matter, between the years 1802 and 1816, so far as we can ascertain, is the following from the Wells records, under date of 1803: "The following question was put in town meeting,—Is it expedient that the Spring term of the Supreme Judicial Court should be holden at Kennebunk and the Fall term of the same Court at Alfred? Two hundred and ninety-one voters being present, all of whom, excepting one, voted in the affirmative." With this expression of opinion as to expediency, we

<sup>1</sup>"About this time [1799] great complaint was made of the old townhouse [at York] for holding courts, and the want of accommodations for judges, suitors, jurors and attorneys, and the result was that the terms of the Supreme Court were holden in that part of Wells now Kennebunk in 1800 and 1801. Great exertions were made to constitute Alfred and Kennebunk the shire towns of the county. These movements stirred the people of this town [York], Kittery and Berwick intensely. The result was that this town and Alfred were declared the shire towns, and measures were adopted by which the county donated five hundred dollars, York six hundred dollars, and individuals in York and Kittery contributed generously for the purpose of building a courthouse, which was done in 1810-11. The courts were retained here [York] until 1832, when, on account of our geographical position, all the courts were removed to Alfred and that place became the shire town of the county."—*Marshall's Address*.

think the whole matter was permitted to slumber for the following thirteen years.

The first term of the court in 1800, as were the terms in 1801 and 1802, was held in the meeting-house. We copy from the records:

"COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

"York, ss. At the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusets begun and holden at Wells (that part of the town called Kennebunk) within and for the County of York, on the second Tuesday of September, being the ninth day of said month, Anno Domini 1800.

"By the Honorable Theophilus Bradbury, Samuel Sewall, Esquires. And the Honorable Simeon Strong, Esquire, producing a commission under the seal of the Commonwealth, appointing him one of the Justices of this Court, the same is read in open Court and he takes his seat accordingly."

Edward Payne Hayman was qualified as Clerk.

Dudley Hubbard, Esq., was appointed Attorney General *pro tem*, the legal incumbent of the office being absent.

Samuel Mitchell, Samuel Howard and John Webber, Grand Jurymen from Wells.

Benjamin Titcomb (foreman), William Hobbs and John Low, First Petit Jury; Joseph Littlefield, third, Second Jury, all of Wells.

Several cases were tried during the term, but all of them unimportant.

George W. Wallingford, Nicholas Emery, Judah Dana and Temple Hovey were proposed for admission to practice in this court.

September term, 1801. Justices, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Sewall and George Thacher.

Ezekiel Wakefield, Joseph Bourn and Daniel Wheelwright, Grand Jurymen for Wells. First Petit Jurors, John Taylor (foreman first jury), Jonathan Hill, Isaac Emery and Isaac Bourn, from Wells.

1801. John Holmes was proposed for admission to practice in this court.

*Nol pros.* entered, State *vs.* Wells, for not repairing highways.

Commonwealth *vs.* Seth Storer, mariner, Foxwell Cutts and Jonathan Tucker, merchants, all of Pepperelborough, for alleged obstruction of a public landing place, by building a wharf. Verdict, not guilty.

September, 1802. Justices, Simeon Strong, Samuel Sewall and George Thacher.

Jeremiah Hubbard, Samuel Gooch and Abraham Annis, Grand



Jurymen from Wells. Petit Jurors, George Getchel, Benaiah Clark, Nathaniel Wells, Jr. (foreman of second jury), Nathaniel Storer and Samuel Gillpatrick, for Wells.

1802. Peleg Wadsworth, Stephen Longfellow and John Frothingham appointed referees in an action for trespass, — Daniel McCrillis and Robert Ford, of Berwick, *vs.* William Bennet, of Sanford.

Joseph and Clement Storer *vs.* Moses Littlefield, Jr., of Wells. At a Court of Common Pleas, held at York in 1801, this case was tried and a verdict rendered in favor of the defendant. Plaintiffs appealed. Judgment of lower court sustained. Costs, one hundred twenty-six dollars and eight cents on plaintiffs.

The President and Fellows of Harvard College petitioners for partition of twenty-five hundred acres of land on Saco River, of which the college is owner of two-fifths. Samuel Pierson, of Biddeford, James Gray, of Pepperelborough, and Samuel Knight, of Boston, appointed to make partition of said land.

Jane Wood *vs.* Job Wood, action for divorce on ground of adultery. Divorce granted.

State *vs.* Jonathan Hodsdon, of Porterfield, who, "not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil, with force and arms in and upon one Mary Sargent, wife of Daniel Sargent, in the peace of God and of the Commonwealth aforesaid then and there being, violently and feloniously did make an assault," etc., etc. Isaac Parker and Nicholas Emery, counsel for defendant. Verdict of jury, "Not guilty." This trial, we are told, drew to the church a much larger attendance of males than was usually found at the Sabbath-day services in the sanctuary. It afforded rare sport for all present, from the bench to the humblest listener on the floor.

The lawyers whose names appear on the records of the sessions of the court in the years above named are — Symmes, Daniel Davis, Dudley Hubbard, Prentiss Mellen, George Thatcher, Joseph Thomas, George W. Wallingford, Nicholas Emery, Isaac Parker, Judah Dane, Temple Hovey, Cyrus King, — Atkinson (of Dover, N. H., probably), John Holmes, Benjamin Greene.

A courthouse was erected in Alfred in 1807, at a cost of three thousand four hundred ninety-nine dollars and sixty-nine cents. The previous year a log jail was built at a cost of about three thousand dollars.

The office of county treasurer was removed from York to Alfred in 1813; the offices of clerk of the courts and register of probate

were removed from York to Kennebunk in 1815. Both of the last named were held by Daniel Sewall, who came to Kennebunk from York in that year and brought the records of these offices with him, perhaps under authority of a legislative enactment, or the law might have empowered the judges of the courts to sanction their removal to other than a shire town. The records of all these offices had always been kept in the dwelling-houses of the several incumbents thereof until 1820, the date of their being transferred to Alfred.

The selectmen of Wells petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts, May, 1816, in compliance with a vote of the town, that one term of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas and one term of the Supreme Judicial Court, then, by law, held at York, be removed to that part of Wells called Kennebunk, or to Alfred, as the General Court may think proper.

#### FIREPROOF BUILDING.

A committee chosen by the town of York—David Sewall, chairman—and the selectmen of said town petitioned the Legislature of Massachusetts, at its May session, 1816, that the "town of York, together with the towns of Eliot, Kittery, Wells, Arundel, Biddeford and Saco, with such other towns adjoining them as see fit to petition for the purpose, may be divided and set off from the other towns in the county for the purpose of electing a register of deeds and erecting a building, if thought necessary, in some one of the aforesaid towns for the reception of all the ancient records of the county and those which may be hereafter made." This action was taken because, "by a late resolve of the Commonwealth, the County of York is required to erect a fireproof building in the town of Alfred for the reception of the records of the county." The first of the several reasons given for the favorable consideration of the prayer of the petitioners is "that the town of Alfred is far inland and contains a small and scattered population. In 1808 it was a part of Sanford and in that year was incorporated, and without the Society of Shakers would be so inconsiderable as to be hardly entitled to a representation in your honorable body; the roads leading to this town are circuitous," etc. The petitioners also call attention to the facts that people from the interior towns necessarily seek the seaboard towns to find sale for their products and to purchase commodities needed in their homes, while business interests call very few persons from the seaboard to the interior; the mail facilities were much better on the seaboard. "The towns bordering immediately on the seacoast contained, in the year 1810, nearly eighteen thousand

inhabitants and paid more than one-half part of the taxes, and it is believed have had the largest share of business to transact with the office of the register."

The following paragraph, copied from this petition, furnishes facts of general interest, even at this day: "Your petitioners having thus shown *a portion* of the inconveniences they must suffer, with the other towns on the seaboard, from the location of the offices in Alfred and the erection of a *fireproof building* there, would further represent that in the year 1647 the records of the County of York (which then embraced the whole of the District of Maine) were located in this town [York] and have there continued (with great real convenience to the public) till within a short period of time. These records contain evidence of title to real estate for the District of Maine from its first settlement, and were the only depository of the records of deeds in said District until 1761, when the counties of Cumberland and Lincoln were severed from the county of York."

The town of Lyman also appointed a committee to petition the Legislature, either that the law requiring the fireproof building at Alfred be repealed, or that certain named towns on the seaboard, and such interior towns, the business transactions of the people of which lead them very frequently to those on the seaboard, be set off as a recording district.

These petitions were referred to the winter session of the Legislature, during which (December 6, 1816,) "a Resolve passed both houses authorizing the Register of Deeds of York County to keep his office, records, &c., at Alfred." The petitions from York and Lyman, it appears, received little attention, nor do we find any intimation that they were "backed up" by similar petitions from the other towns interested, although popular sentiment on the seaboard and in several interior towns was decidedly opposed to the location of the building in Alfred.

In the *Visitor* of May 9, 1818, John Holmes, agent, under authority of the before-named resolve, advertised for proposals for furnishing materials and labor for the fireproof building, which proposals were to be opened on the eighteenth of said month and contracts to be awarded immediately thereafter; the whole work was to be completed by the first day of the ensuing November. The building was not completed until the fall of 1819; its cost was three thousand and fifty-six dollars.

The agitation of the "court question" was continued by the presentation of a petition, signed by Arthur McArthur, of Liming-



ton, and others, in the Maine Legislature of 1823, praying that all the courts in the County of York may be located at Alfred. This proceeding created great excitement in the towns of York, Kittery and Eliot, the citizens of which claimed that it was a violation of an agreement made twenty years previously, "whereby Alfred was pledged to make no attempt to remove the courts from York so long as the people of that quarter were satisfied with the existing arrangement." It was not denied that such an agreement was made, and the petition was withdrawn, "under an apprehension that if these towns were against Alfred, the consequence would be a removal of all the courts to Kennebunk."

"This course of things induced the friends of Kennebunk to believe that the time had arrived when the people could have an opportunity of settling the question upon its own merits, unshackled by any league or system of bargain and management to prevent the free exercise of their rights."<sup>1</sup> Accordingly petitions were presented to the Legislature of 1824, asking that all the courts may be removed to Kennebunk. When the subject matter of these petitions came up for consideration in the House a protracted debate ensued; several propositions were offered, discussed and rejected. At length the question was disposed of in both branches by the passage of an act which was regarded, by the friends of Kennebunk at least, as fair and satisfactory. This act required the legal voters in the several towns composing the county to give in their votes at the annual town meetings, in March or April of said year, on this proposition, "Is it expedient that all the judicial courts and county offices shall be held at one place in the county of York?" and if it shall appear that the number of votes in the affirmative shall exceed those in the negative, then the inhabitants of the aforesaid towns shall be required to give in their votes, at the annual election in September, on the following question, "Shall all the judicial courts and county offices in the county of York be located in Alfred or Kennebunk?"

The *Gazette* of the twentieth of March, 1824, says, in reference to the questions submitted to the people by this act, that, by locating the courts at Kennebunk, the county will "actually gain a new courthouse and fireproof building for the county offices. The land is already given, in the center of the town, on which they may be erected," provided it is voted to locate the courts in Kennebunk, and in such event the citizens of the town will obligate themselves "that a sum shall be subscribed by individuals which, with the

<sup>1</sup> George Scamman, of Saco, in a speech before the Senate, January 28, 1825.

addition of the proceeds of the sale of the old buildings, shall be amply sufficient to erect new ones at Kennebunk." A decisive majority of the votes given in on the first question in the several towns in the county was in the affirmative, thus opening the way for action on the important question, "Shall the courts be located at Alfred or Kennebuuk?"

The active supporters of the respective towns entered upon the contest with great earnestness. In Alfred a printing office was established, from which a weekly paper, called the *Columbian Star*, was issued. The leading object of this paper was the advocacy of the claims of Alfred for selection as the shire town; it also supported, exclusively, the measures and candidates of the Republican or Democratic party, thus releasing the proprietor of the *Kennebunk Gazette* from all obligations longer to open his columns to all parties, which, as the publisher of the only paper in the county, he had up to that time considered it expedient, as well as proper, to do. The friends of Kennebunk felt assured that a majority of the voters in the county were satisfied that this town was altogether the most desirable place for the location of all the courts, and that the main obstacle to their success was the cost of new buildings, for which there might be fears that the people would be taxed. To meet this possible objection, a subscription paper was circulated and an amount was at once pledged quite sufficient to erect a courthouse and county offices, which, with an ample lot of land, it was proposed to present to the county in case the courts were located here.

The *Gazette* of June 17th contained an illustrative engraving showing the external appearance of the proposed new county building, according to the plan that had been made. Accompanying this was a copy of a bond made by Joseph Storer, Daniel Sewall and others, binding themselves, "provided the inhabitants of the county shall determine, by their votes [at the then approaching September election], to locate all the judicial courts and county offices at Kennebunk and the State Legislature shall pass an act in conformity thereto," to erect and finish in a workmanlike manner, within nine months after an act of the Legislature, as aforesaid, shall have been passed, a proper building for a courthouse, and fireproof, for the sole use and benefit of the county. Said building was to be "fifty-two feet long and forty-two feet wide, two stories high, with a hipped roof; the lower story of the same to contain convenient rooms for the offices of the Clerk of the Courts, Register of Deeds and Register of Probate, with proper alcoves or safes in each of said rooms for the safe keep-

ing of the Records, and a fireplace in each room, and also suitable lobbies for the accommodation of the Jurors, with fireplaces in two of said lobbies; the upper story to be finished off in a plain and workmanlike manner, equal, at least, in style and convenience, to either of the present Courthouses in York or Alfred; to have four fireplaces and one lobby, with a proper number of doors and of windows of eight by ten glass, and all the rooms and entries to be plastered."

On the conditions named in the above-described bond, Joseph Storer obligated himself to make and deliver unto the County of York a good and sufficient deed of two tracts of land, lying in Kennebunk, as follows: Beginning at a stake standing by the road leading by said Storer's house (later owned by Charles Parsons) to Alfred, about four and one-half rods from the northwest corner of said Storer's farmhouse, and running northeasterly fifty-two rods to the road leading from the meeting-house, thence by said road southeast four and one-half rods, or so far as would be necessary to make four rods in a line drawn at right angles to the first line, thence from said point fifty-three rods to the road first mentioned, thence by said road to the first bounds; it was intended thereby to make a road four rods wide from the two roads first mentioned on the southeast side of the line first run. Also, another lot of land adjoining the same, bounded as follows: beginning at a stake on the northwest side of the new road thus laid out, about twenty-one and a half rods from the road first mentioned, thence running northwesterly thirteen and a half rods to land sold to Rufus Furbish (now Mrs. William Storer's), thence northeasterly fifteen rods, thence southeasterly eleven and a quarter rods to a stake standing by the new road herein laid out, thence by said road to the first bounds; the first lot for the use of said county as a road, and the second lot for the use of said county on which to erect a courthouse or any other buildings, when and so long as said judicial courts shall be holden at Kennebunk.

Still another bond was given by the friends of Kennebunk, on the before-named conditions, and with the further condition "that if the inhabitants of said County of York shall give unto Joseph Thomas, Joseph Storer, Michael Wise, John Hovey, of Kennebunk, and Isaac Lord, of Effingham, N. H., the obligors named in the bond, a good and sufficient deed of all the right and title of said county to the present courthouse, fireproof building and gaol in Alfred, and to all the land under and adjoining the same on or



before the first day of July, 1825, and also the courthouse in York and the land under and adjoining the same on or before the above-named date, and of the gaol in York and the land under and adjoining the same on or before the first day of July, 1827, then the before-named obligors shall procure a good and sufficient deed, in fee to the said county, of a suitable piece of land in said Kennebunk, not less than one-half of an acre, and shall cause to be erected thereon for the use of said county, as its sole and absolute property, within two years from the time appointed by law for the location of the said courts and county offices in Kennebunk, a suitable gaol and gaol house for the safe keeping of prisoners and for the accommodation of the gaoler." Here follows a minute description of the building, which was to be thirty-eight by twenty-five feet, two stories high, etc., etc.

Probably at no time in the political history of the county has excitement run so high as during the ten weeks preceding the "vote on the court question," which occurred on the thirteenth of September, 1824. It was the largest vote that had ever been thrown in the county. Arrangements had been made for obtaining accurate lists of the votes from every town at the earliest hour practicable, by means of messengers (railroads, telegraph and telephone wires were conveniences then unknown to us), who, on their arrival in the village, were to report, without delay, at Towle's Hotel. The programme was carried out admirably. Every town was heard from before midnight, and at that hour handbills were issued from the *Gazette* office giving the entire vote on the court question, and, excepting two or three towns, the full vote for county officers. The returns aggregated three thousand four hundred and ninety-two votes for Kennebunk and three thousand two hundred and eighty-four for Alfred. The majority for Kennebunk was two hundred and eight; according to the official returns, this majority was reduced to two hundred and one. Wells was the "banner town." Its vote was for Kennebunk five hundred and nine, Alfred none. In this town the vote was four hundred and fifty-four for Kennebunk, Alfred one; in Kennebunkport, Kennebunk received four hundred and thirty-five and Alfred two votes. An excellent supper was provided for the messengers and citizens at Towle's and the hall in the ancient hostelry was never better filled than then, and never was there assembled within its walls a company of men better satisfied with the events of a day than were those who there and then exchanged their congratula-

tions. The battle had been fairly fought and the victory had been honestly gained.<sup>1</sup>

Early in the session of the Legislature of 1825, the Secretary of State transmitted to the Senate the returns of the votes given in the several towns in the County of York respecting the location of the judicial courts, which in due course were referred to a joint committee, consisting of three members of the Senate and five members of the House. The report of this committee, which was that "it is inexpedient to take any further order thereon," was brought up in the Senate a few days later, debated and amended, by a vote of eleven to eight, so as to authorize a resolve to be brought in, whereby the judicial courts and county offices should be established at Kennebunk, according to the votes of the people of the county. The senators from Cumberland, Hancock, Oxford and Penobscot voted in the negative. When the report of the committee, as amended by the Senate, came before the House, after considerable debate, it was decided to non-concur with the Senate's amendment, ninety-one to thirty-nine, and the report was then accepted in its original form. When this action of the House was brought up in the Senate, that body seceded from its former vote and concurred with the House, eleven to eight, thus treating contemptuously and defeating the wishes of a majority of the people of York County, as expressed at the polls in accordance with an order of a former Legislature.

The arguments employed by the advocates of Alfred in justification of this unwarrantable legislation were that the majority for Kennebunk was obtained under an undue excitement, growing out of the presidential election and questions of a local character, and that, in the language of a Mr. Adams, a member of the House from Portland, "although a decisive majority of the people of York County was found to be in favor of having all their courts in one place, and on the final question a majority was also in favor of Kennebunk in preference to Alfred, still this voice of the people was not conclusive, but merely a matter of fact or evidence upon which the Legislature were, after all, at liberty to exercise their judgment and give it what weight it might deserve." Other members sustained this view of the case in similar and even stronger terms.

<sup>1</sup> By an exact calculation, it was found that the towns favorable to Kennebunk contained a population of 24,227, while those favorable to Alfred contained 22,657, and that the polls in the first named numbered 5,047, while those in the last named numbered 4,416. The county tax of York County for 1824 was \$4,500, of which the towns in favor of Kennebunk paid \$2,800 and those in favor of Alfred about \$1,700.

The subject of the permanent location of the seat of government of this State was before this Legislature of 1825; each of the towns of Wiscasset, Waterville, Thomaston and Augusta was an applicant for this distinction. It was alleged that the unlooked-for and unjust action, in both branches, in regard to the York County courts was the outgrowth of certain "log-rolling" operations, by which the friends of Augusta, "right or wrong," covenanted to aid the advocates of Alfred, and the friends of Alfred to aid those of Augusta. Several of the measures of this Legislature were severely criticised by some of the leading newspapers of the time in this State.

The matter was not permitted to rest here. During the first week of the session of the State Legislature of 1826 the petition of Nahum Morrill and others, of Wells, praying that all the courts in York County may be located at Kennebunk, was presented and referred, with several others on the same subject, to a select joint committee. This committee reported an order of notice, together with a reference to the next Legislature. In the Senate it was voted, nine to seven, not to accept this report, and, also, to grant the petitioners leave to bring in a bill. The House non-concurred and accepted the report of the committee. The Senate adhered to its former vote, whereupon the House voted to indefinitely postpone the subject.

The following year, 1827, Nahum Morrill and many others petitioned the Legislature that all the judicial courts and county offices in York County may be located at Kennebunk, agreeably to the wishes of a majority of the inhabitants of said county, as fairly and unequivocally expressed; and Nathaniel Hill and others, of Lyman, also petitioned the same body that all the courts in York County may be located in one place. The committee to which the latter was referred reported that "it is inexpedient to take any further measures on the subject the present session," which report was accepted in both branches. The petition of Morrill and others shared a similar fate. Inasmuch as this Legislature was under the same controlling influence as were those of the years 1825 and 1826, this result was not unexpected.

The following extract from a letter written by Mr. Holmes to Ex-Governor King, dated Washington, January 21, 1825, probably affords a full explanation of the otherwise inexplicable conduct, as above described, of the majorities in the Legislatures of 1825, 1826 and 1827: "If the courts are at Kennebunk, federalism will ema-



nate from their headquarters and the Republican party is down.  
· · · Do write or speak to some of our confidential friends and give them *this* view of the subject."

An act to remove the judicial courts in the County of York from the town of York to the town of Alfred was passed by the Legislature of 1833 and approved by the governor.

Jeremiah Bradbury, clerk of the county courts, advertised October 28, 1833, for proposals for building a county jail at Alfred, the whole building to be completed on or before the first day of September, 1834.<sup>1</sup>

By a resolve of the Legislature of the eighth of February, 1834, the several towns in the county were required, at their annual town meetings in March or April, to give in their votes by yea or nay in regard to the building of a new jail. The result of the balloting on this question, in all the towns in the county, was forty-two yeas and two thousand four hundred and eighty-four nays. The cause of this meager vote was that thirty days before the passage of the resolve the county commissioners had accepted proposals received in answer to the advertisement above named, and that the contractors had in part executed their contract before the town meetings were held.

The present fireproof wings on each side of the courthouse were finished in the fall of 1854 and cost twenty-nine thousand one hundred seventy-one dollars and fifty cents. In the summer of 1854 the "dome light" was placed on the courthouse, over the court room; cost, nine hundred ninety-eight dollars and fifty cents.

<sup>1</sup>"In October, 1833, a committee of eight from different parts of the county reported that a new stone jail was needed; estimated cost, \$6,000. It was built in 1834, costing \$7,737.12. The lot for the new jail and house of correction was purchased and the foundation of the building laid at a cost of \$6,000. The Legislature subsequently authorized the expenditure of \$30,000, and the building was completed in 1873."—*History of York County*.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST CONCERNING "YE OLDEN TIME" AND PEOPLE COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

We have found in the ancient records of Wells, as well as in old papers, documents and historical works that we have had occasion to consult, many facts that are worthy of presentation in connection with our history, the most important of which are here given. Although some of them are not strictly of historical value, they are, we think, neither inappropriate nor devoid of interest. It may be well to add that chronological order is not attempted.

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Frequent mention, in transfers of real estate recorded in the old town records of Wells, is made of "the Willows." We apprehend that very few of the citizens of that town, at this day, are aware that such a name was ever borne by the locality referred to. Here and there one with antiquarian taste can be found who will tell you that it is now known as "Tatnick." It was formerly noted for the number and extraordinary size of the willow trees that grew there; the tree is by no means extinct at the present time,—many fine specimens are still to be seen in that locality. How it happened that the pretty and appropriate title originally borne by this place was exchanged for its present inelegant designation, tradition does not reveal. In an old grant (1659) this locality is referred to as "Catriarh." This is the only mention of it under this name that we have found.

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Henry Brown and James Oare (Air) were residents (planters) of Oyster River (former name of Durham, N. H.), in November, 1662, and in that year purchased a farm of Thomas Withers, "of Kitterie," situated at "Bradboat" (Braveboat) Harbor in "Piscatq River at the wading place." In 1684 they received a grant of land on the western side of the Mousam nigh to where the tide comes up; about four and one-half acres.

Joseph Taylor and William Frost were chosen "Servaiers of the highways" for the years 1695 and 1696.

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One, Two, Three and Four Mile Brooks are frequently mentioned as boundary lines of lots laid out or conveyed. We have inquired of many of the old residents of Wells as to the location of these brooks, but have not been able to obtain the desired information. The records do not throw much light on the subject. In a grant to James Denmark, March, 1694, the lot is described as "lying between the four mile brook and the three mile brook, joining to the four mile brook going to Negunquit," and the same year a grant to John Harmon is described as "lying or being near a place commonly called the four mile brook going towards Negunquit." In 1675 a grant was made to Thomas Boston of one hundred and fifty acres, "at the head of Little River, the three mile brook upon." 1703, a lot of land is described as lying between Exford and three mile brook. The surveyors' return of the laying out of the road from the village to "Gould's Causey" (the "Harts Beach road") in 1796 states that it runs to or near the one mile brook. We presume, therefore, that it is "Sunken Brook," near the village, sometimes called "Brandy Brook" on account of the color of the water, especially near its confluence with the Mousam.

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"Not more than five or six families lived within the present limits" of Kennebunk in 1716. "There were thirty-two male adults in Wells in 1653. The entire population probably did not exceed one hundred." "Previous to 1653 between thirty and forty persons [male adults?] had here [in Wells] made a home, but some of them had removed to New Hampshire before that date." "The first houses in Wells were built near the site of the Island Ledge House, on or about Drake's Island and between that and Little River."—*Bourne*.

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The earliest permanent settlers in Wells, when it embraced the present territory of Kennebunk, were the ancestors of the Coles, Gooches, Hammonds, Harmons, Littlefields, Wakefields and Wheelwrights, who were here prior to 1653; the Bennetts, Bostons, Butlands, Cousenses, Hatches, Hobbses, Larrabees, Smiths, Storers, Taylors, Wellses and Wormwoods, who came here between the years 1653 and 1670.



We find on the early records of the town, on old deeds and other ancient documents, the following Christian names of persons who were residents in Wells and Kennebunk: Bazelial, Hezekiah, Jedediah, Lazarus, Sarathiel, Zachariah, Zabular, Zebulon, Bathsheba, Bethaiah, Comfort, Consider, Dorcas, Dorothy, Diadema, Hepsea, Hepsibah, Iset, Jemima, Jerusha, Johannah, Katherine, Keziah, Lowhannah, Mercy, Merriam, Merribah, Panoply, Patience, Patty, Pethular, Philadelphia, Philomela, Prudence, Shuah, Susannah, Tabitha, Temperance, Terza.

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Cape Porpus was totally destroyed by the Indians the tenth of August, 1703. Bradbury says it probably never had contained more than two hundred inhabitants up to that date. Some of the former residents returned and a few new settlers came in; in 1714 the population continued to increase and in 1719, on petition of the inhabitants, the town was re-incorporated by the Massachusetts General Assembly and its name was changed to Arundel.

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1715, June 30, the town appointed a committee to "run a line athwart of the head of the old lots, being two and a half miles up from the marshes; also, a highway eight rods in breadth above said lots."

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"Pond Marsh," occasionally referred to in grants of early dates, was in the vicinity of Maryland Ridge, as was "Exford."

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1718, March 18, town votes that Judah Paddock and Henry Marsh have liberty to gather up what pitchpine knots or candlewood they may find, for making tar, on the common lands between the easternmost branches of Little River and Mousam River, from the sea up said rivers as high as the path or country road which leads from Wells town towards Saco and no higher; the tar to be made on the land and the town to be paid eighteen pence for each barrel made. It would be interesting to learn the process by which tar was then manufactured, the amount made by the grantees and their success in a pecuniary point of view, but we have no information touching either of these particulars.

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1714-1719, grant to Penny "westerly side of the ridge (Maryland), now Episand, where runneth a small brook out of it into Episand Brook."

"The greatest fall of snow ever known in New England was in 1717; the storm continued six days and the depth of snow was eight feet upon a level. Many buildings in the country were buried up in the drifts."

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A tribe of Indians, the Norridgewocks, formerly occupied the present site of the town of Norridgewock, in this State. With this tribe a French Jesuit missionary, named Sebastian Rasle, took up his abode. He erected a church in their village and was active and successful in proselyting the Indians of this and other tribes to the peculiar forms and ceremonies of the Catholic religion, but his labors were not confined to parochial duties; he exerted all his influence to exasperate the Eastern Indians against the English, and in time of war urged them to acts of the greatest violence and cruelty. His influence became so widespread and his plans for the devastation of the settlements (in Maine and New Hampshire especially) and for the captivity and murder of the Colonists were so faithfully carried out by his savage adherents that the greatest alarm prevailed among the settlers. The Indians were unusually active from April to August in 1723, "murders were perpetrated successively at Falmouth, Scarborough, Saco, Wells, York and Dover," and in the spring of the following year they renewed their warlike operations with increased vigor and unabated ferocity. Rasle was known to be the master spirit who, with the "advice and aid of his ecclesiastical and lay superiors at Quebec," planned and directed these horrible outrages. "The nuisance was intolerable; it had to be abated at its source. There could be no quiet sleep in a border settlement unless it was at the same time a garrison. The wretchedness of constant apprehension was universal, when no one could guess better than another where the next sudden blow would be struck. And to whatsoever place the remorseless enemy did come in sufficient strength, that place was sure to be ravaged with fire and sword, and its inhabitants to share among them the woes of captivity, widowhood, orphanage and death in all its forms."

The authorities of Massachusetts became deeply sensible of the absolute necessity of carrying the warfare into the enemy's headquarters. Orders were given to Captain Moulton, who was stationed at Fort Richmond, to proceed to Norridgewock with an adequate force, if possible, to take Father Rasle a prisoner and to destroy the Indian village. In pursuance of this order Moulton at once proceeded to Norridgewock with two hundred men and succeeded in

entering the village before he was discovered by the Indians (August 12, 1724). The old men, women and children fled. About sixty of the warriors acted on the defensive and fired upon their invaders; the Colonial troops returned the fire with fatal effect. The warriors who survived the second discharge of the arms of the Colonists fled in dismay. Rasle, who took an active part in the combat, was shot, as were Mogg and Bomazeen, two noted chiefs. The entire loss of the Indians was twenty-seven; the Colonial troops did not lose a man. The church and wigwams were burned. "The pernicious Popish mission was not renewed, and we read scarcely anything more of the Norridgewocks in the history of the tribes."<sup>1</sup>

Several of the soldiers engaged in this attack were from Wells and Arundel; among them were John and Nathaniel Wakefield, Stephen Larrabee, John Butland and Anthony Littlefield, who resided east of Little River, and Samuel Waterhouse, then of Arundel, but afterward a citizen of Kennebunk.

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A saw-mill was built by Harding in 1718 on Gooch's (then known as Lawson's) Creek, at the outlet of Lake Brook and quite near the navigable waters of the Kennebunk River. It was very nicely situated, with abundance of excellent timber in its immediate vicinity, but in consequence of the diminutiveness of the water power it could not be operated profitably, and the work of sawing lumber here was carried on only some twelve or fifteen years. Remains of this mill are still to be seen.

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A sad tragedy occurred in the vicinity of this mill in April, 1724. A sloop belonging to Lynn came into the river and near the creek for the purpose of getting a return cargo of spars and lumber. Two soldiers, William Wormwood and Ebenezer Lewis, stationed at Harding's Garrison, which was only a short distance from the creek, were employed by the captain to assist in loading the sloop. While thus engaged a small party of Indians fell upon them and Felt (the captain) and the sloop's crew, together with Wormwood and Lewis, were murdered. They were buried in the field near Butler's Rocks, so-called, but no mark exists by which the burial places of these victims of savage cruelty can be ascertained. Wormwood was the son of Thomas, of the Larrabee village. Bradbury says that the father, Thomas, was in command of Harding's Garrison at the time this outrage was committed.

<sup>1</sup>All quotations in this article are from Palfrey's *New England*.



Mrs. Shackley was one of the model women of the days of Indian troubles, capable, industrious and resolute. Soon after her husband had put up and made tenantable the house afterward owned and occupied by John Meserve, on the Ross road, Mrs. Shackley expressed the wish that some day she might be the possessor of a pillow filled with feathers; she would be glad for her husband to have one also, but admitted that she was selfish enough to desire to be the first to enjoy this luxury. The remark was often repeated as time passed along. Shackley was anxious to gratify this reasonable wish of his better half, and, with this object in view, started off one morning for the older settlement, and after traveling about eight miles succeeded in purchasing a goose and a dozen goose eggs, which in due time he landed safely at his home. A pen of brush was at once constructed, the eggs properly placed in a nest and the fowl was left to manage affairs in its own way. A few days after this thoughtful action of the husband, news reached them that war had again been declared between England and France and that the Indians were already in the vicinity of our settlement. During the night of the day on which they heard these unwelcome tidings Mrs. Shackley waked up her husband from a sound sleep and assured him that she had just heard the crackling of brush near the window, caused, she doubted not, by the footsteps of one or more of the enemy. The husband ridiculed the idea and the matter dropped. The same sound was heard by Mrs. Shackley the following night and she was sure she saw an Indian peering in at the window; still the story was discredited by Mr. Shackley. The next night both heard the crackling and both were confident that they saw an Indian at the window. An examination the following morning revealed the fact that the brush and grass had been trampled down in the vicinity of the window, the door and the goosery. They then followed the dictate of prudence, packed up as many valuables as they could carry, provided a supply of food for the goose, which the good woman left with a sorrowful heart, fastened the house and took up their line of march for Larrabee's Fort, which they reached without trouble. Days passed on. The Indians were heard from, as near by, in all directions, but none were seen near the fort, and no particulars of the destruction of life or property reached them.

One delightful morning Mrs. Shackley was the first in motion of the inmates of the fort. "It was the hour of the morning twilight"; everything was still. "I wish I knew," thought the good woman, "whether our house or the goose has been meddled with."

"I will know," was a second thought, and tying a kerchief over her head she proceeded in the direction of her dear home. Near the spot where the First Parish Church now stands she turned to make a "short cut" through the woods and across the swampy places. She had advanced but a few rods on this line when she was confronted by a large bear with two cubs. The bear growled and looked toward her cubs. The woman, who wore a large home-made checked apron, shook the garment vigorously and the bear conducted her cubs to a place of safety. The woman took advantage of the absence of the beast on her motherly errand and sped on her way with all possible haste. She reached her home, finding that nothing had been touched. The goose strutted about and showed nine fine goslings. Goose and progeny were soon in the capacious apron and Mrs. Shackley was fort-ward bound, by the Ross-Kimball path, the Saco path and the path to Larrabee's, all of which she traveled safely and without injury to her precious burden. She found the inmates of the fort in great excitement. The watchmen had seen her go outside, but nothing more could be learned respecting her movements. Three or four small parties, armed, were just about starting to ascertain her whereabouts as she appeared in sight, bringing the glad tidings to her husband that all was safe at the homestead and triumphantly exhibiting the goose and goslings. When the war cloud had disappeared Mr. and Mrs. Shackley returned to their home, the feathered bipeds grew strong and multiplied, and in due time both wife and husband rejoiced in the possession of a pillow filled with feathers.

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In 1731 the town increased the salary of its minister, Rev. Mr. Jefferds, the prices of labor and the necessities of life having increased so much that it was "but about three-fourths of what it was when we agreed with him."

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Benjamin Gooch and Mary Rich, both of Wells, entered their intention of marriage with the town clerk March 10, 1735; her father, Peter Rich, "forbids her intention of marriage and making out certificate for that end" the seventeenth of the same month. Mary, however, was married to Paul Goodwin in 1738, which probably was more acceptable to the "old folks," and Benjamin did not permit the matter to "gnaw like a worm," but found a helpmeet at an early day after the decisive action of Mary's father.

John Mark Daniel (McDaniell?) and Susannah Young entered intention of marriage with town clerk October 29, 1737; Susannah's mother, November 1, "forbids any certificate being given therefor."

The town clerk records the marriage, August 1, 1755, of "Josiah Perkins and Susanna Allen, of Oak Hill, within the bounds of no town"; of John Cousens, the third, and Huldah Littlefield, of Jeremiah Littlefield, the fourth, and Dorcas Jones, in 1768; also the marriage of Sharper, negro servant of Joseph Hill, to Hannah Simpson, an Indian woman, February 13, 1744; of Tom and Phillis, negro servants of Capt. James Littlefield, in 1776.

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In conveyance of thirty acres of land—James Hubbard and Waldo Emerson to James Wakefield—it is described as lying on the west side of the road that leads to Kennebunk Upper Mill, about eighty rods above the brook on which Emmons's marsh lies.

In description of bounds of land surveyed in 1742: "On the northerly side of Little River, below the Great Eddy."

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The following persons served as jurymen: Nathaniel Kimball, in 1737; John Look, John Gillpatrick and Joseph Day, in 1738; John Butland, John Wakefield, Thomas Wormwood, Ichabod Cousens and Moses Stevens in 1739. We do not find the names of any others who served in this capacity on the old records.

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"Iron Ledge," off Boothby's Beach, derives its name from the fact that, about 1750, a vessel loaded with iron was wrecked there. The officers and crew, and we think a part of the cargo, were saved, but the vessel was a total loss. The night was very dark and the weather extremely cold; the mariners were compelled to swim quite a distance and were nearly exhausted when they reached the shore. Boothby's house was at once opened for their reception and everything possible was done for the relief and comfort of the sufferers, but, lacking accommodations for all of them, Webber was requested to take charge of one or more. He unwillingly admitted one under his roof, but this one died, and it was believed for want of proper care. The conduct of Webber and his family was, however, charitably attributed, by his neighbors, to timidity or superstitious notions rather than hardheartedness; but, whatever the cause, it fixed a stigma upon them which rendered their lives uncomfortable, so



that, in a year or two afterward, he sold his farm and moved to an eastern township, and this family became extinct in this part of the State. For a long time it was believed by many that the Webber house was "haunted." At certain hours every night noises like the tramping of feet were heard in the room where the sailor died, and also piercing shrieks for help proceeding from a figure clothed in white and wandering about the house. So ran the ridiculous story, which was received with implicit faith by the ignorant and credulous. The property fell into the hands of Richard Gillpatrick, who held it several years, whether occupied or unoccupied is not known, and by him was sold to Benjamin and Nahum Wentworth, and from the date of its occupancy by them the ghost was neither seen nor heard. The estate is still in possession of the heirs of the Wentworths.

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John Maddox died in 1748. By will he bequeathed to his daughter Mary and to his grandsons John and Palsgrove fifty pounds each "in old tenor bills."

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At a town meeting held December, 1748, it was voted to build a pound thirty feet square and seven feet high, with round white pine poles, "as the former pound was," and also a pair of stocks, and that twenty-four pounds old tenor be allowed for building both structures.

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At a town meeting held in March, 1749, a committee consisting of ten persons (two of whom, Benjamin Stevens and Richard Boothby, resided in Kennebunk) was raised "to inquire into and consider the difference of money and the necessities of life from what they were when the Rev. Mr. Jefferds first settled among us, and to see whether the town has made his salary as good from time to time as what he first agreed."

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In 1751 Sarah Eels, of Beverly, leased four hundred acres of land in Coxhall to Ichabod Cousens.

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In 1757 the town voted "that a good and sufficient pound be built in the Second Parish at the charge of the town." This stood on Portland Street, nearly opposite the site of the Methodist meeting-house, on or near the spot where Simpson's blacksmith shop afterward stood.

Wolves, next to the Indians, were the greatest depredators on the lives and property of the early settlers in Wells and, indeed, throughout New England. For many years, and as late as 1767, the town voted annually to pay a bounty on the scalps of all these animals that were killed within its territory during the ensuing year. Bears were also quite numerous in this vicinity. William Day once had a "fight for life" with one of these monsters of the forest. He had been at work one afternoon on a piece of land he was clearing up near the Sanford road, not far from his dwelling, when, thinking he had done a good day's work, he concluded to go home. His axe lay several rods distant near a thickly wooded spot. While on his way to get this he heard a heavy crackling, and looking in the direction of the sound saw an enormous bear close upon him. In a minute he was in the embrace of the brute, without knife, club, or any means of defense except his fists. These he used to the best advantage striking to free himself from the grasp of Bruin, whose hugs and bites were beginning to occasion him pain and anxiety. At length fortune favored him; he was able to pick up a pitch knot to defend himself with. The bear hugged him seriously and lacerated him somewhat. He succeeded after a hard struggle in putting out both eyes of the bear and thus released himself from his embrace. We do not learn whether the bear was afterward pursued and killed or was thereafter a sightless wanderer through the woods.

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"Deer and Moose Reeves" were among the town officers annually elected in Wells from an early date in the last century to near its close. We presume it was the duty of those persons who held this position to protect deer and moose from wanton destruction.

"Overseers of the Beach and Drivers thereof" was the title given to another class of town officials annually chosen for many years during the eighteenth century. The especial duties devolving upon these officers we are unable to ascertain; we think it quite probable, however, that their powers and duties were equivalent to those conferred on wreck masters of the present day.

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"White's land, so called," often referred to in old documents, on the sea road, adjoining land of the late William Wormwood.

"Moody's line," on "northeast side of Mousam River adjoining John Gillpatrick's land," laid out for Samuel Moody.

"Kennebunk Fort," at the Larrabee settlement, built by William Larrabee, Jr.

Nathaniel and Richard Kimball bought of Ebenezer Hough and others, in 1767, six hundred and thirty acres of upland and meadow in Coxhall, "beginning at Wells line, at the southwest end of William Larrabee's lot."

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In the list of proprietors of common lands (1772) we find the name of "Chad Watson, alias Thomas."

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Jeremiah Folsom, who lived on the Saco road about the middle of the eighteenth century, had a curious tradition attached to his name. It is said there were three or more John Smiths in the company of passengers on board the *Diligent* the twenty-sixth of April, 1638, when they sailed from England for Massachusetts. One of these who, for the purpose of being distinguished from the others, was familiarly called John Foulsham, came from the town of Foulsham, England, and on his arrival in this country chose to be called and known by this name. Thus it came to be handed down to posterity.

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The town voted, March, 1786, that after the "tenth day of January next" sleds used on the highway shall be "four feet between joints." Penalty for non-compliance with this vote, forty shillings.

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The town voted March, 1787, that there be an addition of two persons to the number of selectmen heretofore chosen by the town, and also to reduce the pay of the selectmen from six pounds to four pounds each. Maj. Nathaniel Cousens and Capt. Joseph Hubbard were then chosen the additional selectmen under this vote for the then current year. The town also voted at the same meeting "that one-third part of town meetings shall in future be held in the Second Parish, and that the next annual meeting, on the first Monday in April next, shall be held there."

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The *New Hampshire Spy* of February 2, 1791, contains the following article, dated Portland, January 27th, of that year:

"On the evening of the 6th inst. Mr. Job Young, traveling westward on foot through Kennebunk, was overtaken by two sailors, knocked down and robbed of four or five dollars. The villians, through fear of adding the guilt of murder to robbery, called at the next house in great agitation to inform the people that there was a



man dying back in the road. There was only a woman in the house; she asked them sharply why they did not bring him up. They made no reply, but ran off in great haste. The men wore blue jackets, long trousers striped with red and white. One of them appeared to be about twenty years of age, five feet high, and was foul in speech. The other was a middling size, about thirty years of age, and talked broken English."

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The following items from the *Portsmouth Oracle* of October 10, 1801, will be interesting to the descendants of the active men in Kennebunk and its vicinity at the commencement of the last century.

"Left at St. Kitts, 5th Sept., barque Truxton, Merrill, of Kennebunk, discharging. Market dull."

Jonathan Storer, of Wells, advertises a runaway, "Jotham Bridges, an indented apprentice, eighteen years old."

Daniel Sewall, postmaster at York, advertises list of letters remaining in his office October 1, 1801.

Advertised, as just published, "Miscellaneous Poems, with several specimens from the Author's Manuscript Version of the Poems of Ossian, by J. M. Sewall, Esq."

A citizen advertises—"Wanted to purchase 50 Mules. Enquire of the Printer."

The *Oracle* of July 17, 1802, furnishes the following items:

"Arrived at Kennebunk, July 1st, brig Vengeance, Capt. B. Nason, St. Vincents; brig Oliver, Capt. Stone, Martinico."

"Married, at Arundel, Mr. Nathaniel Stevens to Miss Elizabeth Day."

"Died at Biddeford, greatly lamented, on the 9th inst., of the yellow fever, Mrs. Elisa, relict of the late Mr. Noah Nason, and youngest daughter of the late Rev. Moses Morrill; on the 17th ult., of the yellow fever, Mr. Moses Porter, eldest son of Doct. Aaron Porter."

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The town voted in 1802 to build a pound in the Second Parish.

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In 1803 the "selectmen returned a list of voters in the town of Wells amounting to five hundred and two."

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We find no mention of a formal celebration of the Fourth of July in the parish of Kennebunk at an earlier date than 1803. All

the information we have respecting this is derived from the title page of an oration delivered on that occasion as follows: "An Oration pronounced at Kennebunk, District of Maine, on the anniversary of American Independence, July 4, 1803. By Stephen Thacher. Libertas! sonus delectabilis. — *Cicero*. Published by request of Committee of Arrangements, Samuel Lord, Chairman. Boston, David Carlisle [printer], 1803." This production was strongly democratic. We think there is but one copy of it extant.

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Henry Clark and forty-one others petition the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, September, 1816, "that a new highway and common or county road from Kennebunk toll bridge, on Kennebunk River, in Wells, to Cobb's Corner, in said Wells, is necessary and would be of great public convenience; that for most of said distance the road is already made, and a bridge erected over Mousam River, so called, where said road passes the same; that the mail stage passes over said road one-half the time in going to and returning from Portsmouth to Portland, and that the said road is much used by the inhabitants of Wells in their intercourse with the port of Kennebunk and by the public generally." The town of Wells appointed a committee to oppose the laying out of the proposed road "at the Court of Sessions." The Court granted the prayer of the petition, however, and the road was laid out, and the town, April, 1818, appointed a committee to apply to the Circuit Court of Common Pleas to discontinue a part or the whole of the road laid out from Cole's Corner, by Samuel Hart's, to the toll bridge over Kennebunk River. Probably the committee did not ask for a discontinuance, but, if so, their efforts were ineffectual.

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Simpson, Benjamin, was a resident of this town several years prior to October, 1816; he did not remain here more than a year after that date. He was a blacksmith and built and worked in a shop on the Saco road, nearly opposite the site of the Methodist meeting-house. This shop he afterward sold to Stephen Furbish, who paid therefor, it is said, "an old-fashioned brass-mounted clock." Simpson lived in, and we think built, the house now owned and occupied by Henry Jordan. Loammi Hooper rented a part of this house a few years and afterward purchased the estate of Simpson.

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Hawks, Thomas, a seaman, came to this town from Lynn, Mass., about 1817 and resided here nearly two years. He fell from

the topsail yard of the schooner *Beluga*, struck his head on the star-board anchor and went overboard. His body was recovered and was decently interred the next day. He was twenty-three years old and appeared to be steady and industrious.

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A severe hail storm, accompanied with thunder and lightning, visited this town about four o'clock in the afternoon of the third day of August, 1818. The hail broke a large number of panes of glass in the village, but the wind occasioned very little damage. In Sanford the gale was very severe; three-fourths of the roof of Rev. Mr. Swett's meeting-house was blown off and the building moved from its foundation, a barn was blown down and two children, who were at play in the haymow, were carried some distance by the wind, but without being injured; several sheds and other small buildings were blown down. The duration of the gale was about twenty minutes and the hailstones were from two to five inches in circumference.

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The several regiments of infantry and battalions of cavalry and artillery composing the first brigade in the sixth division of Massachusetts Militia were ordered to parade at Maryland Ridge (near Joseph Littlefield's) on the ninth day of September, 1818, to be reviewed by Governor Brooks. Notwithstanding a very severe rain storm prevailed during the whole of the night preceding the designated day, the officers and soldiers were very generally on or near the parade ground at sunrise, but such was the severity of the weather that orders were issued from headquarters at an early hour for the dismissal of the troops. The review was postponed to the thirtieth day of the month, which was very pleasant. The brigade, on that day, was commanded by Brigadier General Simon Nowell, of Arundel; the several companies exhibited well-filled ranks and the conduct and appearance of the soldiery were truly praiseworthy.

The review fully equaled the expectations of the public. The Adjutant General remarked, during his inspection, that some of the companies were equal to any in the Commonwealth. The Governor, having expressed his gratification at the appearance of the troops, their equipments, the correctness of their evolutions and their soldier-like conduct, left the field about four o'clock P. M. and, after partaking of a collation furnished by General Nowell, proceeded on his way homeward. The day closed without an accident, and the



spectators, well pleased with the events of the day, returned to their homes peaceably and seasonably.

"This being the first brigade review within the county," and it being understood that the Governor and Adjutant General were to be present, a large concourse of spectators, from every part of the county, was present. Kennebunk furnished its full quota and the streets of the village were unusually quiet until a little past noon when the cry of "fire" brought into the streets the few males, who had not forsaken their homes, and a "large company of women." A spark from the chimney of Dr. Fisher's house had fallen upon the roof, ignited a shingle and the fire was slowly enlarging its area when it was opportunely discovered. It was soon extinguished.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.

The first newspaper published in York County was *The Echo*, in Fryeburg (the Indian *Peguawket*), by Elijah Russell, in 1798. It was discontinued in less than a year from the date of the first number. Fryeburg, at this time, belonged to York County. When Oxford County was formed, in 1805, this, with other towns north of the Great Ossipee River, was taken from York and included in the new county.

The first newspaper printed in Kennebunk and the second in York County, "as it was," was the *The Eagle of Maine*, by John Whitelock, who came from Portsmouth, N. H. It is not known that a copy of this paper has been preserved. We are enabled, however, to fix the date of its publication by the following editorial notice which appeared in the *United States Oracle and Portsmouth Advertiser*, published by William Treadwell & Co., under date of July 17, 1802:

"PROGRESS OF CORRECT PRINCIPLES. Among the late numerous establishments of Federal papers, we are happy to notice one in Kennebunk, District of Maine, by Mr. Whitelock, entitled *The Eagle of Maine*. We hope our Federal brothers of the Type will acknowledge his infant exertions by a free and regular exchange."

Its publication was continued but a short time, probably not more than six months. It is not known to what place Whitelock removed. Gentlemen who were well acquainted with him, while he resided here, always spoke of him as a genial, noble-hearted man, but with convivial habits which induced a disastrous result to his enterprise; they also spoke of his wife as a lady remarkable for her accomplishments and for her truly exemplary life, as devotedly attached to her kind and affectionate, but unthrifty, husband, and as one accustomed, in girlhood and for several years of her married life, to the comforts which prosperity affords, but whose later years were darkened by poverty and hard toil, privation and suffering.<sup>1</sup> Whitelock enlisted in the United

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Nancy, widow of John Whitelock, died in Portsmouth, N. H., December, 1828, aged 44 years.

States service during the War of 1812-15 and was a non-commissioned officer. A part of Colonel Ripley's regiment of Maine troops passed through this village, September 10, 1812, on their way to Plattsburg or its vicinity. Whitelock was with them and was permitted to make a call of an hour's length on the editor and publisher of the *Visiter*, at the printing office. He was as jovial and light-hearted as in his better days. He died of fever while in the service. Colonel Ripley's troops, above named, halted at Barnard's Tavern (now the residence of Mr. Daniel Curtis) and enjoyed themselves for a couple of hours on the grounds in front of the house; resuming their march they proceeded to a favorable location about a mile west of the village and encamped for the night. The next morning they struck their tents and proceeded toward their destination. The *Visiter* of September 12, 1812, says: "The troops were in complete uniform and exhibited a truly martial appearance."

The second newspaper printed in Kennebunk was called the *Annals of the Times*, by Stephen Sewall, who issued the first number in January, 1803. There are single copies of five numbers of the first volume and of four numbers of the second volume of this paper in the American Antiquarian Society Rooms in Worcester, Mass. It was probably discontinued at the close of the second volume; it is quite certain that the establishment was removed from this place to Portsmouth, N. H., in January, 1805. Sewall served his apprenticeship in Portsmouth; he brought with him, when he came here, several fonts of type which had been imported from England, expressly for him, by an uncle, or, perhaps, a brother. All the printing apparatus in his office was new, and although, as regards the size of the fonts of common type and the variety of job type, it would nowadays be considered quite meager, it was, nevertheless, amply sufficient for the requirements of his business. He was a first-class workman, as several specimens of his job work have indicated, which were very neatly executed. After he removed to Portsmouth he published there the *Literary Mirror*, a bound volume of which—comprising all the numbers issued in 1808—is in possession of his descendants. He removed from Portsmouth to Scarborough, in this State, where for many years he was a successful and very much respected physician of the Thompsonian school. He was a well-educated man and possessed considerable poetic talent, evidences of which exist in the form of patriotic odes and hymns written by him for public celebrations and other festive occasions. He was somewhat peculiar—perhaps eccentric—in his manners, but very



gentlemanly and kind-hearted. If he had pursued his vocation of publisher and editor at a later day, he would, undoubtedly, have filled editorial columns with marked ability; but in those days, when, in most cases, the subscription lists bore the names of "just enough and none to spare" to meet the estimates of receipts and expenditures, when advertisements were "few and far between" and the calls for job work were by no means frequent, the printer and publisher of a country newspaper was compelled to labor diligently at "case and press" in order that he might promptly "get out" the successive numbers of his small weekly sheet and execute such job work as might be offered. He could not afford to hire adult help; an apprentice was usually his only assistant. Original editorial matter was not considered essential, and beyond the chronicling of local incidents of general interest he devoted very little time to this department. For comments on events in foreign countries, or political questions which were prominent topics of discussion in our own country, he relied on the most influential journals published in the large towns, copying and giving full credit for their "leaders," thus indicating his approval of the opinions advanced therein, his belief that they embraced all that need be said on the subjects of which they treated, and tacitly admitting that they were expressed in language which he did not aspire to improve. In looking over files and single numbers of many different papers published between the years 1798 and 1815, it is found that there are few, if any, exceptions to this rule, as applied to papers published in country towns, while the editors of those published in larger towns did not generally devote much space to this department.

A few weeks, or at most a few months, after the discontinuance of Sewall's paper, William Weeks, who also served his apprenticeship in Portsmouth, commenced the publication of the *Kennebunk Gazette*. Very little is known about this sheet. A single copy of the nineteenth number, dated July 24, 1805, has been preserved. It is evident that the patronage received was not satisfactory, and that the outlook for a more prosperous future was anything but flattering, inasmuch as he had removed to Saco and issued *the first number of the first paper printed in that town*, August 21, 1805. The *Gazette* could not have been published more than six months. His paper in Saco was called the *Freeman's Friend*. In the first number there are two advertisements by persons doing business in Kennebunk and a notice of the marriage, in Wells, of Capt. William Gooch to Miss Hannah, daughter of John Storer, Esq. How long

Mr. Weeks remained in Saco is not known with certainty; probably, however, not longer than a year or eighteen months. He removed from Saco to Portland and there published a paper with the same title, *Freeman's Friend*. He had not been in Portland a year when his establishment was destroyed by fire. In July, 1809, he was publisher of the *New Hampshire Gazette* in Portsmouth. He married Abigail, daughter of Dimond Hubbard, of Kennebunk. Mr. Weeks was a good printer, courteous in his manners, and a man of fair literary ability. He died August 8, 1839, aged fifty-six years.

The three newspapers of which we have spoken, viz., *The Eagle of Maine*, *Annals of the Times* and *Kennebunk Gazette*, were printed in a small building that stood near the street, between the dwelling-houses owned by Capt. John Hill and Mr. John Cousens. The private way leading by Mrs. L. H. Kimball's to Bourne's dwelling-house had not then been laid out. After the building had been vacated by Weeks, it was wholly occupied by Enoch Hardy, a tobacconist, who purchased it and about 1812 removed it to the lot afterward owned by Mr. John G. Downing and adjoining that on which his dwelling-house stands. In 1816 it was advertised "for sale or to let." It was not occupied by Hardy after its removal, as, in 1810, he built the store recently owned and occupied by Mr. Andrew Walker, and removed his tobacco manufactory and salesroom thereto as early, doubtless, as 1811. Hardy succeeded Jeremiah M. Stickney, a tobacconist. Stickney was one of the original subscribers to the Wells Social Library, organized in December, 1801, and must have been a resident here at that date. He sold his Library share to William Weeks early in 1805. It is believed that both Stickney and Hardy came here from Bradford, Mass.

The building was occupied by Humphrey Chadbourne, as a carpenter's shop, three or four years—say from 1818 to 1822—subsequently by Mr. Israel W. Bourne. It was then known as "The Academy" and had the imposing addition of a belfry and therein a bell. Bourne removed to Dover, N. H., and was succeeded by Misses Lord and Lewis, both from Portland, who taught school there a year or two.

When vacated as a schoolroom it was fitted up for a tenement house,—was subsequently occupied by several different families,—but became dilapidated and unseemly, until it was regarded as very nearly allied to a nuisance, when it was sold, removed to the Port, and is now improved as a stable. The Darwinian theory starts man as a member of the monkey tribe, with a caudal appendage, but per-

mits him, in process of time, to shed the ungraceful "annex" and to attain to a wonderful degree of personal beauty and intellectual greatness. This theory is completely reversed when applied to inanimate things—for instance, to buildings. These, as a general rule, are best at the start, gradually, but surely, diminishing in beauty and strength, from decade to decade, until, weather-beaten, neglected, shattered and untenable, they are converted to "base uses," occupying locations and devoted to purposes which it never entered into the imaginations of the builders as a possible future of structures erected at so much cost and labor, and, when completed, contemplated with so much gratification and pride.

The fourth newspaper printed in Kennebunk was the *Weekly Visiter*, by James K. Remich, who served his apprenticeship in Dover, N. H., with his uncle, Samuel Bragg, Jr., proprietor and editor of the *Sun*. In 1808, having supplied himself with type, presses, etc., he opened a job office, temporarily, in Dover, proposing to execute such work as might offer, to get his printing materials in good running order, and in the meantime to seek a desirable place for a permanent location. Thinking favorably of his neighbors "across the line," he was about to issue proposals for publishing a paper in Berwick—in fact, he circulated a few copies of the prospectus—when he was solicited by several citizens of Kennebunk (George W. Wallingford, Benjamin Smith and the members of the firm of Waterston, Pray & Co.), who came here from Dover and towns in its vicinity and with whom he was acquainted, to relinquish his plan in that direction and to turn his attention hitherward. He accordingly visited this village in 1809, and being pleased with its appearance and with the cordiality of its citizens he shortly after issued proposals for publishing the *Weekly Visiter*. The success attending his prospectus and the good feeling manifested in regard to the enterprise may be learned from the following characteristic note which he received from Dr. Emerson:

"KENNEBUNK, 18th March, 1809.

Mr. James K. Remich, Dover.

Sir:—Your subscription goes on swimmingly, but I think you will lose ground by delay. Come immediately if you regard your interest or the wishes of your subscribers. Mr. Hayes has shown me your letter, in which you contemplate the first of May. Say the first of April and you will come much nearer the mark. A word to the wise, etc.

Yours, in haste,

SAMUEL EMERSON."



Mr. Remich did not, however, remove his printing apparatus to this town until the first of June. The delay was occasioned by the illness of his uncle, at whose earnest request he remained in Dover and took charge of the *Sun* office until the proprietor was enabled to resume his duties.

The first number of the *Weekly Visiter* is dated June 24, 1809. The editor, in his introductory, says: "It may perhaps be urged that the multiplicity of Gazettes with which our country already teems affords ample means for the dissemination of that kind of information usually contained in a newspaper." Aside from the *Visiter*, it is believed there were but four newspapers then published in the State—a fact which, taken in connection with the apologetic tone of the foregoing extract, leads to the inference that most of the people in those bygone years were not over anxious about the news of the day, or were quite satisfied with such scraps of intelligence as they could gather from the "squire," who took a paper, the neighbor who had been to town, or the passing traveler.

The number of subscribers to the *Visiter* at the commencement of its publication was 457. A respectable list of names had been sent in from each of the nineteen towns which then comprised the County of York. Just as the outside form of the first number was ready for the press, the publisher received a list of seventy subscribers from Dover, accompanied with the following note: "If you do *not* succeed, send our bills for the time you do print the paper; if you do succeed, when you feel you are 'fairly out of the woods' discontinue the paper (unless otherwise requested) and send bills for payment." Although the public appeared to be well pleased with the paper, although the advertising patronage was quite equal to his expectations and job work came in more freely than he had anticipated, still the first year's experience of the publisher was a hard one. His cash receipts were less than his unavoidable cash expenditures, the accessions to his subscription list which had been confidently predicted were not forthcoming, and, moreover, he was becoming decidedly of the opinion that the attempt to publish a strictly neutral paper, in the then existing state of public feeling in this vicinity, would be attended with difficulties that he did not care to encounter. Influenced by these considerations, he gave notice, a few weeks before the close of the first volume, that unless he received a satisfactory addition to his subscription list, and to the money contents of his pocketbook as well, he should remove his establishment to Berwick at the end of the year. The response to this notice

was gratifying; new subscribers came in, bills were cashed, and encouraging words were spoken. At the commencement of the second volume the Dover volunteers were discharged, or such of them as desired to be, and the enterprise was considered a success. At the commencement of the fourth volume the *Visiter* was enlarged; after the incorporation of the town, in 1820, it was again enlarged and the title changed to *Kennebunk Gazette*; in 1824 its neutral position was abandoned; in 1831 the publisher purchased the *Maine Palladium* establishment, in Saco, and brought it to Kennebunk, and thereafter issued his paper under the title of the *Kennebunk Gazette and Maine Palladium*; at the close of the thirty-third volume, in June, 1842, it was discontinued. From 1809 to 1827 James K. Remich was proprietor and editor; from 1827 to 1842 the paper was under the editorial management of Daniel Remich. It cannot justly be said that the *Gazette* was discontinued for want of patronage, although the income of the establishment had been seriously diminished in consequence of the publication of papers in other towns of the county, of the diversion of trade from this village, and of the discontinuance of an important mail route from this place to several of the interior towns, which was no longer required after the P. S. & P. Railroad had been completed. The controlling motive for this step was the absolute necessity of adopting some measure by which the debts due to the proprietor might be *pleasantly* collected, and this seemed to be the most feasible, if not the only practicable, means of attaining the desired end. At the time of its discontinuance it was proposed to resume its publication in the course of two or three years, but in consequence of the ill health of the proprietor and the disinclination of the editor to resume his labors the plan was abandoned. The office was continued in operation several years later and was fairly patronized as a job printing office, although much the larger and more valuable part of the apparatus was sold within two years from the date of the discontinuance of the *Gazette*; the "odds and ends" were not disposed of until about 1850.

A few numbers of the *Farmer's Friend and Laboring Man's Advocate* were issued from the *Gazette* office during the summer of 1831. It was a campaign paper, in large quarto form, four pages, and was made up chiefly of political articles published in the *Gazette*. Large editions of these numbers were printed and widely circulated.

It is apparent that at the date of the commencement of the *Visiter* a change in regard to the benefit of advertising had been

wrought in public opinion. It is probable that the *Visiter's* subscription list was considerably larger than that of either of its predecessors. Those who advertised found that their "wants," whether to buy or sell, were made known in every town in the county, and shrewd men began to comprehend that it was for their personal interest in a business point of view, apart from the benefits derived therefrom, to become patrons of the county paper.

The vignette which formed a part of the head of the *Visiter* from October, 1817, to June, 1820, was an accurate representation of the "Two Acres" at that time, when the Gillespie house was the only building thereon and served the various purposes of dwelling-house, barn, etc., and of the view therefrom at the time it was drawn and engraved by Morse, of Haverhill and Boston, then a well-known designer and engraver.

From June, 1842, to January, 1878, a period of thirty-six years, Kennebunk was without a newspaper. At the last-named date W. Lester Watson moved the *Eastern Star* establishment from Biddeford to Kennebunk. It has been continued from that time to the present and we infer with a good measure of success.



## CHAPTER XIX.

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS IN KENNEBUNK AND VICINITY FROM 1809  
TO 1820, COMPILED FROM THE COLUMNS OF THE "WEEKLY  
VISITER."

In looking over the old files of the *Visiter*<sup>1</sup> we find many items descriptive of occurrences, at different times and places, in this town and its vicinity, which rightfully should be noticed in this volume. Some of these, if rewritten, could not be improved; of some only a brief notice is required. In whatever manner they may be presented they will form a *melange*, but we think an interesting one. We decide, therefore, to devote a few pages exclusively to their publication, copying, abridging or barely noticing, as may be deemed expedient.

The Federal Republicans of Kennebunk and vicinity celebrated the Fourth of July (1809) with appropriate exercises. The *Visiter* published a full account of the proceedings, which will be found slightly abridged, with several of the toasts entire, in Bourne's History. At Arundel the day was celebrated by the citizens without distinction of party. "The sound of cannon and display of colors from the shipping welcomed the rising sun; at noon they assembled at Mr. Robert Sugden's, where they sat down to an excellent dinner." Robert Towne, Esq., presided, assisted by Maj. Simon Nowell as vice president. Dinner disposed of, several patriotic toasts were drunk, "free from the alloy of party allusions." At Alfred the day was celebrated "by the principal citizens of that town and of the neighboring towns without distinction of party." At the dwelling-house of Amos Grandy a procession was formed, which proceeded to the meeting-house, where prayers were offered by Rev. Joseph Brown and Rev. Moses Sweat, and an oration was delivered by John Holmes.<sup>2</sup> After these exercises the procession

<sup>1</sup> We prefer to retain the old style of spelling "visiter," which was in use at the time the *Weekly Visiter* was established, when quoting from or referring to that paper.

<sup>2</sup> The following extract from Mr. Holmes's Fourth of July oration (1809) enunciates doctrines that will appear harsh and impracticable to modern politicians: "Be jealous of the man who boasts much of his love of liberty, who would per-

re-formed and moved to the courthouse, where about eighty persons sat down to an excellent dinner prepared by Daniel Holmes. William Parsons presided, assisted by Abiel Hall, vice president. Several appropriate toasts were given, one of which we transcribe: "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As she was the *first*, may she continue to be the *principal*, *pillar* in the temple of liberty."

1810, March 24, by the arrival at this port of brig Somers, Captain Fletcher, from St. Bartholomew, we have news from London to January 23d, *three days later than before received in this country*. London papers of that date, received at St. Bartholomew before Fletcher left that island, state that the French decrees had been repealed and that the British orders in council would now be repealed, of course.

The town of Wells was assessed in the tax act of 1810, for the payment of its representatives to the Massachusetts Legislature of 1809, four hundred and eight dollars. The next highest tax paid in the county was by Berwick, two hundred and ten dollars.

Schooner Miranda, Captain Perkins, from this port for St. Bartholomew, was brought to January 13, 1810, by the British Letter of Marque Ship John, Richard Reed, from Cape Francois, of and for Liverpool. The officers of the British ship used very abusive language to Captain Perkins, sent him on board their ship, and ransacked his vessel. They took from the Miranda a barrel of beef, two barrels of bread, a barrel of potatoes, a box of fish, a barrel of apples, six turkeys and thirty-six fowls, and offered in payment about one-third their value in the West Indies. On refusing to take the money tendered, the captain was threatened that his vessel should be put in charge of a prize master and crew. Captain Perkins was detained a little more than six hours.

John Anderson, of Wiscasset, Maine, a merchant aged forty-six years, died suddenly at Jefferds's the twenty-fifth of May. He was a native of the north of Ireland and came to this country with his wife in 1793. He left a widow and four sons, one of whom was a distinguished Democratic politician of this State, holding at one time the office of governor thereof. His remains were interred in

suaue you that his political opponents are about to enslave you, and that *he* and *his* partisans are your only friends. This *may* be the patriotic zeal of an honest man, but it is too often the canting hypocrisy of a scoundrel. The man *who solicits your suffrages* is unworthy your confidence. Inquire into the motives of all the office seekers who at this day infest your country, and see whether they are founded on *real patriotism* or *private emolument*. The *restless, ambitious and unprincipled* will not be contented while out of office, and the people will never be happy while they are *in*."

the cemetery near the Unitarian Church. A heavy slate slab, with an appropriate inscription, covers his grave.

"The York County Medical Association" met at Jefferds's Tavern September eleventh. Samuel Emerson was chosen President; Jacob Fisher and Abial Hall, of Alfred, First and Second Associates; Richard Hazeltine, of Berwick, Secretary, and Joseph Gilman, of Wells, Treasurer.

There were only twenty towns in York County in 1809.

On the first of April, 1810, there were one hundred and thirty-three banks and branches in the United States with a nominal capital exceeding fifty-eight million dollars.

Census of Wells in 1810. Males, two thousand one hundred and eighty-one; females, two thousand three hundred and one; colored, seven. Total, four thousand four hundred and eighty-nine.

Arundel, males, one thousand one hundred and eighty-two; females, one thousand one hundred and seventy-eight; colored, eleven. Total, two thousand three hundred and seventy-one.

Biddeford, males, eight hundred and twenty-four; females, seven hundred and thirty; colored, nine. Total, one thousand five hundred and sixty-three.

Rev. Andrew Sherburne communicated to the editor of the *Visiter* the foregoing census returns and also the following statement: "Amongst the household manufacturers in this division none have as yet been discovered who appear to have excelled a Mrs. Bourne, of Kennebunk [Mrs. Capt. John Bourne]. She occasionally employs three looms, one of which carries the fly-shuttle. Within eight months this family have woven two hundred and twenty-two yards of cloth of different kinds in this loom, which at the lowest value is worth one hundred and twenty-three dollars and ninety cents. The other two looms are constructed to weave cotton counterpanes the whole width. In one of these wide looms has been woven the season past, by one young woman, twenty-one counterpanes, worth on an average seventeen dollars each, and in the other they have woven ten counterpanes, worth ten dollars each, amounting in the whole to four hundred and fifty-seven dollars, and the total manufactures to five hundred and eighty dollars and ninety cents. The labor expended is thought not to exceed the constant labor of three women with the assistance of children."



The shed and barn belonging to Michael Wise were destroyed by fire March 1, 1811; the fire was occasioned by depositing ashes in the shed. The night was unusually calm; "had it been otherwise no efforts could have prevented the entire destruction of the most populous part of the village." The editor of the *Visiter* urges the inhabitants of the village "to hasten the long-contemplated purchase of a fire engine."

Arrived at this port, April first, brig Charles, Perkins, Grenada, cargo rum, and schooner Confidence, Thompson, Damarara, cargo rum and molasses. "Both these vessels were seized by the collector and the property bonded."

"Phillips Limerick Academy" was dedicated on the last Tuesday in February, 1811, and opened for the reception of students on the first Monday in March, same year, Rev. W. Gregg, of Portland, Preceptor, E. Eastman, President, and William Swasey, Secretary.

We show the politics of the people of Wells as indicated by its votes for Governor and members of Congress between the years 1809 and 1818. The total number of votes for Federal Governor during the nine years that intervened was three thousand seven hundred and eighty against nine hundred and twenty-six cast for Republican Governor in the same time.

November, 1810, Richard Cutts was the Republican candidate for member of Congress, and Cyrus King, of Saco, the Federal candidate. The vote throughout the district was very small. Cutts was elected. Wells gave King sixty-four votes and Cutts twenty-eight. The Federalists did not make any formal nomination; the Republicans were not united, many of them throwing scattering votes.

November, 1812, Wells gave King six hundred and twenty-two votes and Cutts forty-one.

November, 1814, Wells threw King five hundred and sixty votes, while John Holmes received but fifty-five.

Dr. Moses Hemmenway, one of the most distinguished divines of his time, died in Wells, April 18, 1811. The *Visiter* of May fourth contains a finely written notice of the deceased and also a poem of uncommon merit to his memory. "For more than half a century he was the beloved and respected pastor of the first church in Wells. As a man of talents, a scholar and theologian, he was probably second to few clergymen which the United States have produced." His funeral was attended by a larger assemblage of

people than was perhaps ever seen on a similar occasion in the District of Maine. The funeral eulogium was pronounced by Dr. Buckminster, of Portsmouth, with great pathos and effect."

Joseph Moody and John U. Parsons, with three other gentlemen belonging to the First Parish, were chosen, May 11, 1811, to represent Wells in the Massachusetts Legislature.

July 4, 1811, "the sable color of the times did not prevent the Federalists of Wells from commemorating the birthday of liberty." The usual program of exercises on such occasions was very successfully carried out; prayer by Rev. Mr. Fletcher, oration by Dr. Samuel Emerson, an original patriotic song by Stephen Sewall. We give two lines of the first verse:

"That all have their hobbies, a doctrine not new,  
Trace man from creation, you'll find it most true,"

and the thirteenth and concluding verse entire:

"Be America's hobby to live free or die,  
Her independence be written with stars in the sky,  
There shine till high heaven's glorious orb veils his rays  
And unbounded creation is wrapt in a blaze."

Nathaniel Wells was President of the day, George W. Wallingford, Vice President and Marshal. In reading the account of the day's proceedings we noticed that there was no mention of the ringing of the bell, that the procession moved from Jefferds's at twelve, an unusual hour, and that the exercises were in Washington Hall. We were led to seek an explanation of these notable features in the description of the ceremonies. It appears that the Federalists did not anticipate any demonstration on the part of the Republicans and had concluded not to make any themselves on this anniversary. The Republicans improved this condition of things by making application to the parish assessors for the use of the church, including the bell of course, for a party gathering on the then coming Fourth. This request was very reluctantly granted, but no good reason existed why it should be denied. We can ascertain no other particulars in regard to their celebration than that they occupied the church, caused the bell "to give forth merry peals," that the procession formed at and moved from Barnard's Tavern, that the oration was by Stephen Thacher, and that a dinner was provided at Barnard's. Finding that the Republicans had "stolen the march upon them," the Federalists got up a counter celebration which was satisfactory in all respects. The orations by Dr. Emerson and Mr.

Thacher were printed (the former at the *Visiter* office and the latter in Boston). Copies of both are now extant. No mention is made of the Republican celebration in the *Visiter*. It appears that the Republicans of Arundel had a party celebration of the day. The editor of the *Visiter* remarks that accounts of Republican celebrations, if handed in for publication, will be cheerfully inserted in his columns.

(*Visiter* of July 6.) Married in this town, on Sunday evening last, by Joseph Storer, Esq., Mr. William Edes, aged sixty, to Miss Hannah Muchmore, aged thirty.

There's something so comical in't,  
I ne'er was so tickled by half;  
And were I to die the next minute,  
I verily think I should laugh.

The annual meeting of the "Kennebunk Musical Society," John Skeele, Secretary, occurred November 19, 1811.

Dr. Abial Hall, of Alfred, sends to the *Visiter* a long and valuable communication in regard to the spotted fever, which had made its appearance in that town and had proved fatal in several cases. Dr. Fisher also sends a timely and able article on this disorder, by Dr. Woodward, of Connecticut, with prefatory remarks. Dr. Fisher, in a succeeding number, gives directions to persons exposed to or attacked by spotted fever. The Doctor could not permit so good an opportunity for a joke to slip by unimproved. He concludes his remarks as follows: "Direct the messenger who goes for the doctor to get some wine and rum, gin or brandy, so that they may arrive about the time *the doctor does*." (March, 1812.)

A large meeting of Federal Republicans was held at Kennebunk the tenth of March, 1812. Jeremiah Hill was chosen chairman and Daniel Sewall, clerk. Nominations were made, resolutions and an address to the people adopted.

A legal town meeting was held in Lyman in July, 1812, "to take into consideration the present alarming situation of our public affairs and particularly to express an opinion on the subject of the present war. A vote was passed, almost unanimously, declaring that the war was inexpedient, ruinous and highly impolitic." Resolutions and a memorial to the President were adopted.

Brig Dromo, Perkins, arrived at this port August 8, 1812, having on board, as passengers, Captain Cazneau, and Samuel Badger,



seaman, the only survivors of the crew and passengers of the brig Polly, of Boston, one hundred and thirty tons, which sailed from Boston for St. Croix, December 12, 1811, with a cargo of lumber and provisions and a crew of seven persons and two passengers. On the fifteenth, during a violent gale from the southeast, the brig was upset and became a complete wreck. In this situation they floated on the ocean one hundred and ninety days, enduring sufferings almost unparalleled. One of the passengers was washed overboard and the other died from the effects of exposure; five of the crew died of starvation and thirst. The survivors were rescued by the master of an English vessel on the twentieth of June, 1812, who fell in with the Dromo in the English Channel, bound out, July ninth. Captain Perkins took them on board his vessel and brought them to this port, whence they proceeded to Boston. Captain Cazneau furnished the editor of the *Visiter* with a long and detailed narrative of the sufferings, hopes and disappointments of the parties to this dreadful catastrophe. It was published at length in the *Visiter* of August twenty-second.

The encounter between the United States frigate Constitution and the English frigate Guerriere, August 19, 1812, which resulted in the capture and destruction of the English vessel by Commodore Isaac Hull, of the Constitution, was hailed throughout the country with the liveliest demonstrations of joy. The *Visiter* of the fifth of September says: "As soon as the brilliant achievement of Capt. Isaac Hull, in the capture of the Guerriere, was known to our citizens they assembled by a sort of involuntary impulse to congratulate each other on the event. Every countenance spoke feelings of national pride and satisfaction at this exploit of our gallant, though neglected, little navy. The bell rang, the cannon roared, a collation was served out-of-doors, after which patriotic toasts were drank," etc.

Brig Advance, from Liverpool for New Orleans, said to be in distress, having sprung her foremast, put into this port September fifteenth. She had a full cargo of English goods, consigned to a gentleman in New Orleans. These goods were seized by the collector of the port. By the politeness of Captain Coit, of the Advance, the editor of the *Visiter* was furnished with London papers to August first and Liverpool to the third, from which copious extracts were published.

A part of Colonel Ripley's regiment arrived in this town on the afternoon of the tenth of September, 1812, and after a brief halt at

Barnard's proceeded to a field about a mile west of the village, where they spent the night. On the following morning they struck their tents and resumed their march to Plattsburg. They were in complete uniform and made a fine appearance. They arrived at Plattsburg the first week in October.

The Friends of Peace from the several towns in the First Eastern Congressional District assembled at Jefferds's the twenty-third of September, from whence they marched in procession to the meeting-house, where they organized. Cyrus King was unanimously nominated as candidate for member of Congress from this district, and, being present, signified his acceptance in a brief and appropriate speech. Nine hundred persons attended the convention.

A correspondent of the *Visiter*, April, 1813, names the following gentlemen as the leading Republicans in this county at that date: Berwick, Judge Greene, Lawyer Bradbury, Mr. Currier and Captain Prime; Lebanon, Esquire Wood; Sanford, Esquire Hobbs and Esquire Allen; Shapleigh, Esquire Emery and Esquire Bodwell; Alfred, Esquire Holmes; Wells, Esq. Joseph Storer and Judge Thacher; Saco, Esquire Granger, Doctor Thornton, Esquire Preble, Esquire Pike; Hollis, Colonel Lane.

George W. Wallingford, John Low and John Bourne, of the Second Parish, with two gentlemen from the First, were chosen to represent Wells in the Massachusetts Legislature, 1813.

There was no public demonstration in this town on the Fourth of July, 1813, but about one hundred and fifty persons, of both sexes, chiefly belonging to the village, celebrated the day by a water party. Two or three large gondolas, nicely fitted up for the occasion, which were towed down the river by two "long boats," furnished accommodations for all of the party who preferred this mode of conveyance; a number of the young men made quicker passage in sailboats. An awning was erected in the open field, in full view of the ocean, where the company partook of refreshments. After the collation a number of volunteer toasts were given. The party returned in good season and were met at Mousam Landing (near the "Creek") by the "Juvenile Infantry Company," commanded by Master John Frost, under the escort of which they marched to Washington Hall. A select band of music, under the direction of Dr. Samuel Emerson, added greatly to the pleasure of the entertainment. The day was remarkably fine and one of perfect enjoyment.

to every member of the party. The "Juvenile Infantry Company" was composed of about thirty lads of from ten to fifteen years of age, all of whom wore neat and appropriate uniforms and exhibited on parade and on the march excellent discipline. Young Frost, it is said, was remarkably well qualified for his position of commander. The company was in high favor with the citizens, and on its "training days" was always provided with a generous lunch. We think it maintained its organization and good standing for several years.

There were three cases of impressment of American seamen belonging to the port of Kennebunk, by the British, from 1800 to 1813. We cannot find the names or any other particulars of the first and second. The third and last was Samuel Littlefield, of Wells, who was taken from brig Agenoria, Jonathan Downing, master, while lying in a West India port, in 1804.

The dwelling-house of Joseph Dane, together with the barn and woodhouse belonging thereto, was burned at two o'clock on the afternoon of September twenty-fifth, 1813. The furniture in the house was saved; the contents of the barn and woodshed (where the fire originated) were consumed. These buildings stood precisely opposite the dwelling-house formerly occupied by Joseph Porter.

John Holmes, of Alfred, was elected State Senator from York County in April, 1814, by a majority of eight hundred and sixty-nine votes.

A public dinner was given by citizens of Kennebunk to Cyrus King, member of Congress from York District, May 5, 1814, "in testimony of their approbation of his able and arduous efforts to restore our suffering country to her former prosperity." About eighty gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner at Jefferds's. Toasts were drunk, with appropriate music. Jacob Fisher presided.

Mayall & Radcliffe, under date of June 3, 1814, "return their grateful acknowledgments to the inhabitants of Kennebunk for their kind assistance in preserving their property in the late destructive freshet."

The spotted fever, nearly allied to the typhus, but characterized by the appearance of dark spots on the body, made its appearance in this town in the spring of 1815. It was contagious and quite fatal. There were many cases in Wells, First and Second Parishes, Arundel and Lyman. It had been prevalent in Alfred (1812) and later in almost all, if not all, the interior towns in the county; in



every town visited by it there had been a number of fatal cases. We have heard it stated that no contagious disease ever known in Kennebunk, while a parish or since its incorporation, was attended with so great mortality as was this.

Daniel Sewall, clerk of the Judicial Courts and register of probate for York County, purchased the dwelling-house, lately owned and occupied by John U. Parsons, and took possession thereof, having removed from York to Kennebunk, in August, 1815. He kept his offices in one of the rooms, fitted up for the purpose, in the dwelling-house.

The dwelling-house of Mr. Seth Littlefield, situated on the Sanford road, was destroyed by fire the twelfth of October, 1815, together with all the corn and potatoes raised by him the (then) past season and the larger part of his household furniture, clothing, etc.

The Association of Ministers, in the easterly part of York County, by their Moderator, Paul Coffin, of Buxton, and their Scribe, Rev. Nathaniel H. Fletcher, of Kennebunk, recommend in a notice dated October 13, 1815, the formation of a Bible Society in York County, and propose that a meeting of persons favorable to this movement be held at the meeting-house in Kennebunk on the eighth of November following.

The grist mill, fulling mill and blacksmith's shop belonging to Mr. Edward Nason, in Arundel ("Nason's Mills"), were destroyed by fire on the night of March 28, 1816. Most of the contents of the fulling mill were saved.

The first elephant ever seen in this town was exhibited at Major Jefferds's, in one of the barns belonging to his tavern stand, on the twenty-third and twenty-fourth of May, 1816. It was said to be the only one then in America. She landed in Boston, from India, about 1806. She was fifteen years old, measured twenty feet from end of her trunk to that of her tail, was thirteen feet round the body, upward of eight feet in height, and weighed more than six thousand pounds. After having been exhibited in a number of towns in Maine, and while on her return to Boston, this elephant was killed in Alfred, a short distance from the village, on the twenty-fourth day of July, 1816, by a miscreant (sheltered from the sight of the keeper and a few citizens who were following the animal), who discharged at her a musket loaded with two balls, both of which entered her body a little back of the shoulder bone. After being shot she trav-

eled a few rods, then fell and expired. She had traveled through every State and Territory of the United States and never before received an injury. The perpetrator of this outrage was never discovered. No motive could be imagined for the infamous act.

James Mayall, of the firm of Mayall & Radcliffe, woolen manufacturers, of this town, fell from Durrell's Bridge on the seventh of October, 1816, late in the evening, and was drowned. The bridge was narrow and on the Arundel side was without railing. He was forty-two years of age, a native of Yorkshire, England. He was an industrious man, a good citizen and much esteemed by his townsmen.

At the election for member of Congress, November 4, 1816, Wells gave King three hundred and three votes (two hundred and fifty-seven less than he received in November, 1814,) and Holmes sixty-three votes (eight more than in 1814). At Alfred, in 1816, King attended a county convention in favor of separation, and accepted the position of chairman. This step alienated many of his warmest and most influential political friends, who declined voting for him or making any efforts in his behalf. In the district, compared with the preceding election, his loss was six hundred and ninety-four votes, while Holmes gained only twenty-four votes.

The year 1816 was very cold throughout and the growing corn, cereals and vegetables were seriously injured—in many localities almost entirely destroyed—by the frosts. There were severe frosts in northern New England every month in the year. We find it stated that “thirteen thousand bushels of St. Domingo corn had been imported into Connecticut up to the nineteenth of October in that year.” In April, 1817, corn sold in Kennebunk for two dollars per bushel, and hay for two dollars per hundred. The season of 1817, however, was more favorable, and the crops, as a whole, abundant.

Brig Mary, of Kennebunk, John D. Wilson, master, was so seriously damaged in a gale of wind in the vicinity of Long Island, N. Y., January 18, 1817, that it was found necessary to abandon her on the twenty-seventh of February, in latitude 41 deg., 25 min., longitude 23 deg., 30 min., after drifting about the ocean forty days and after many unsuccessful attempts to make a port. She left St. Pierre the twenty-first of December, 1816, bound for Salem, Mass., with a full cargo of molasses, hides, logwood, etc. Before leaving the wreck the officers and crew were reduced to an allowance of two

ounces of meat and half a biscuit to each man, for twenty-four hours, with an addition of green hides as a substitute for meat, which, however, was found to be exceedingly unwholesome. The crew were taken from the wreck by the East India Company's ship *Cornevall*, Captain Tousant, from China for London.

Cyrus King, one of the most prominent citizens of Maine, died in Saco on the twenty-seventh day of April, 1817, aged forty-four years. He was four years—from 1813 to 1817—a member of Congress for the First Eastern District. At the time of his death he was Major General of the Sixth Division of the Massachusetts Militia. His remains were interred on the twenty-ninth with military honors. A large number of the citizens of Kennebunk attended his funeral. General King was a son of Richard King, of Scarborough, and a brother of Rufus King, who was appointed Minister at the Court of London in 1795.

The "York County Bible Society" held its first annual meeting, at York, June 18, 1817. John Low, of Lyman, was elected President; Henry Clark, Vice President; John Low, of Kennebunk, Treasurer; Rev. Nathaniel H. Fletcher, Corresponding Secretary, and Daniel Sewall, Recording Secretary; Isaac Lyman, of York, Rev. Jonathan Greenleaf, of Wells, Joseph M. Hayes, of Arundel, Dr. Richard C. Shannon and Josiah Calef, of Saco, Ivory Hovey, of South Berwick, Northend Cogswell, of Berwick, Elihu Hayes, of Lebanon, Elisha Allen, of Sanford, Abial Hall, of Alfred, and John McDonald, of Limerick, Trustees. The balance in the treasury was one hundred and twenty-one dollars and sixty-one cents.

The dwelling-house of Adam McCulloch, at the Landing, together with a shed, was destroyed by fire about three o'clock A. M., November 10, 1818. The house was new, a story and a half building, and it is supposed caught fire while heating the oven the evening of the previous day. Mr. McCulloch was married the week before to Miss Hannah Chase, of Newburyport, and had moved his furniture into the house and made preparations for occupying it the day it was burned. Nearly all the furniture was saved.

The brig *Columbia*, of Kennebunk, Lord, master, from Porto Rico with a cargo of sugar, molasses, lignumvitæ and hides, while attempting to beat into this harbor, seventeenth of November, struck on the fishing rocks and sank in fifteen minutes thereafter. About one thousand dollars in specie went down with her. She was owned



by Joseph Moody and Jeremiah Paul and was insured for five thousand dollars.

Brig Oliver, Bourne, of Kennebunk, sailed from Havana for this port on the thirty-first of October, 1818, and was wrecked on Sandy Key on the seventh of the following month. Sails and rigging were saved and no lives lost. The *Visiter* adds: "This is the fourth vessel of which Joseph Moody, Esq., was part owner that has been lost within the last two years."

Brig Bolina, of Kennebunk (owned by Dorrance and Kilham), Theodore Eldridge, master, arrived at Townsend, twenty-seventh of March, 1819, after a disastrous voyage of ninety-one days. She left Point Petre Christmas day, 1818. On the seventh of January, 1819, her mate, Thomas Washburn, died, and on the following day two seamen were taken sick, leaving the captain with only one seaman and a boy, and compelling him "to tack about and bear away for the West Indies." He arrived at St. Barts on the eleventh of February and there procured seamen and supplies; left the island on the seventeenth for Kennebunk; on the twenty-third took the wind to the westward, which blew a gale for twenty days, during which the vessel lost her bowsprit and was otherwise damaged. Captain Eldridge put into Townsend and left the brig there for repairs.

Widow Philadelphia Harvey died in Wells, in October, 1819, aged one hundred and two years. She was born in Kittery, in the second year of the reign of George I.

There was living in Sanford, in 1819, a man named Tibbetts, who had reached the advanced age of ninety-six years. He was then in good health, with sight, hearing and memory unimpaired. He was a native of Somersworth, N. H., where he was born the twenty-eighth of February, 1724. He recollected Portsmouth when it was an inconsiderable village, and when the Indians from Ossipee and Pigwacket (Coos County, N. H.,) were in the habit of visiting Berwick for the purpose of fishing in the summer months, during the long peace from 1725 to 1744. He was a soldier in the Spanish or five years' War (1745-1749). When he removed to Sanford, in 1761, there was but one dwelling-house, northerly, between his domicile and Canada.

## CHAPTER XX.

### TOWN HISTORY GLEANED FROM ADVERTISING COLUMNS, INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS MEMORANDA, 1809 TO 1820.

We think there is no better form in which information can be given respecting the business and business men of Kennebunk and its vicinity, from 1809 to 1820, than by what may be termed a synopsis of the advertising columns of the *Weekly Visiter* within this term, adding, as we proceed, such explanations in regard to location of stores, shops and other buildings as we are able to furnish, and such other matter as we may consider relevant and interesting.

1809.

April 20. Frost & Hackett advertise dissolution of copartnership. (Nathaniel Frost and William Hackett.)

June. Keser & Porter advertise notice to debtors. (Timothy Keser and Horace Porter.)

July. Waterston & Pray, Kennebunk and Waterborough, also Pray & Hayes, Saco, advertise large stocks of goods in great variety. (Waterston & Pray occupied the brick store which had been quite recently erected by them on what is now the Ocean National Bank lot.)

August. Thomas Drew advertises stock of goods at the store formerly occupied by Waterston & Pray. (This store occupied the front room on the ground floor of the house afterward occupied by Mrs. Hewes as a dwelling.)

The store of Nathaniel Roberts, Kennebunk Landing, was broken open night of September twelfth and a quantity of piece goods stolen.

Dr. Fisher advertises medicines, paints, etc., for which payment may be made in "anything eatable, drinkable, wearable or burnable, at fair prices." (Dr. Fisher's store occupied one-half of the lower story of his dwelling-house which stood near the site of the late Nathaniel L. Thompson's residence).

Waterston & Pray give notice that they will take "Eastern bills at par for goods," and Michael Wise, "Collector of Kennebunk," offers to take said bills for taxes.

October. John U. Parsons advertises an additional supply of goods. (His store stood on the lot now occupied by the tenement house next west to the residence of John Cousens.)

Thomas Folsom will sell his furniture at auction, November seventh, being about to remove to Portland. (Folsom kept a hotel in the dwelling-house now occupied by Woodbury A. Hall.)

Edmund Pierson advertises that he has taken the tanyard lately occupied by Joseph Curtis. (This tannery was at "Scotchman's Brook,"—currier's shop, bark house, etc.,—on the lot between Dr. Ross's block and Henry F. Curtis's dwelling-house. Pierson came from Exeter, N. H.)

December 1. Robert Sugden, at Arundel, advertises his store and large dwelling-house, occupied by him as a boarding-house and tavern, for sale. (Sugden commenced business in Arundel, in 1802, as one of the firm of Harrison & Co. He married Martha Skirrow in June, 1805,—both English. Mrs. Sugden died January, 1810. He removed from Arundel the following month.)

Nathaniel Frost, in store opposite the meeting-house, advertises for bristles; pays thirty cents per pound when combed, dried and bound in bunches, or twelve and a half cents if only dried and free from dirt. (Traders frequently advertised for bristles in several succeeding years.)

Isaac Daniels advertises West India goods and groceries; had just commenced business "at the store directly opposite the Hay Market." (This store occupied the rooms later improved by Eben Huff and Mrs. Johnson Webber, in the building on the corner of Main and Elm Streets. The "hay scales" (old style) then stood on a piece of greensward on the opposite side of the street.)

1810.

January. William Henry advertises notice to debtors; has on hand, for sale cheap, seventy-five sides upper leather. (We do not find his name again mentioned.)

Low, Parsons and Smith, commissioners on estate of Joseph Curtis, insolvent.

William Hackett and George Wheelwright, committee of arrangements for ball on third of February.



Daniel Whitney, shoemaker, "at his shop back of post office." (The post office was in the "long building," Storer's, third from the mill yard.)

Five hundred dollars reward is offered for apprehension of Jeremiah Clark, a public defaulter, late collector for the District of York, who broke jail in York February seventeenth.

John Gubtill, shoemaker, in a shop nearly opposite the brick store. (It was probably the one-story L part of the Grant house, improved as a store by Captain Grant for several years. It afterward formed a part of Norrish N. Wiggin's dwelling-house.)

March. Smith & Treat, at Joseph Porter's tin shop, advertise grave and building stones. (The shop was on site of the late Horace Porter's house.)

April. David Little, Landing, English and West India goods and groceries. The store was opposite his house, which stood where that of John W. Tripp now stands. The store was moved to Titcomb's shipyard, where it has stood for some time unoccupied.

Luther Kimball, cabinet work. West of David Little's store, at the Landing.

May. Josiah Cross, carriage maker and repairer. Shop near the brick store. It was probably in Hodgdon's building. It was removed to "a shop near the custom house" the next February; he did not succeed well and left town within a year.

Daniel Hodsdon and Jamin Savage dissolve copartnership. They occupied the three-story building built by Hodsdon on the site where now stands George W. Frost's dwelling-house, next the bank. It was a large building, the lower floor chiefly occupied as a salesroom for cabinet work, etc., the second floor as a workshop and the third for a paint shop, storing choice lumber, etc. Hodsdon and Edward White form copartnership for the manufacture of cabinet work; they advertise "bell-back and bamboo chairs" and a full supply of furniture at the shop just described and also at the shop lately occupied by White & Co., "opposite Mr. David Little's house," at the Landing.

Nathaniel Jefferds advertises clothing business, on west side of Mousam, and also "eight acres of land, with small house and barn," situated near Rev. Mr. Fletcher's dwelling-house, formerly property of James Ridgeway and now owned by Thomas Folsom.

Nathaniel Roberts, Landing, offers one hundred dollars reward for recovery of goods and valuable papers stolen from his store night of May second.

Betsey Hutchins and Silene Powers, "tailoring and mantua making," room in John H. Bartlett's house, on spot where the Stephen Perkins house now stands.

Theophilus Hardy and Jotham Perkins (Hardy & Perkins), tanners, want to purchase hides and skins; offer for sale a good assortment of sole and upper leather and calfskins. Tanyard on Alfred road, on Scotchman's Brook. The main building improved by them is still standing and is now used for storage. The vats were filled up many years ago. The house lately owned by George Parsons, adjoining the old tanyard, was occupied by Perkins. Perkins married Polly Stackpole, of Arundel, August 31, 1809. Hardy built and occupied the dwelling-house adjoining the tannery; he also built the one-story house, near the brook, on the opposite side of the road, which was occupied by his widow and children after his decease. This building now forms the L part of the late James Osborn's house on Portland Street. Hardy married Patty W. Goodwin, of Somersworth, N. H., November, 1805. Hardy and Perkins were worthy and enterprising men.

Timothy Kezer sold his dwelling-house—recently owned and occupied by George Parsons, on Alfred Street—at auction, July 9; purchased by Robert Waterston. Kezer & Porter dissolve copartnership September 29, and Kezer removes to the Landing. Waterston married Hepsea Lord, December 25, and occupied the Kezer house.

September. John Patten, Arundel, advertises for juniper berries. Traders frequently advertise for these berries, 1810-15.

Michael Durgin advertises apple paring machines, patented.

October 13. Daniels & Hooper form a copartnership, English and West India goods and groceries, at Daniels's old stand (the house just mentioned). Dissolve copartnership January 25, 1811. Loammi Hooper continues the business in same store.

October 19. Daniels advertises house, store, etc., formerly occupied by him, six miles from Kennebunk meeting-house, for sale.

November. John Wood, singing school.

#### 1811.

January 1. Smith & Porter form copartnership, at store recently occupied by Kezer & Porter, then second from Osborn's corner on Alfred Street, now moved to the opposite side of the street. It is fitted for a dwelling-house on second floor. Here Kezer lived while building the large house on next lot, north. It has been occupied by many different families.

Peter Folsom, harness maker. The house and shop were on lot between the residences of Mrs. Clara Hardy and Mrs. John Hill.

January. Timothy Kezer, at Kennebunk Landing, wants "two hundred cords hard wood in exchange for goods."

Jefferds & Curtis advertise "stop thief," a hundred dollars in money and sundry articles of merchandise having been stolen from them. We do not find this firm again mentioned.

Daniel Whitney makes shoes and boots on the "new or old construction"; has a patent for making "the much approved ironbound boots, shoes and bootees"; wants one journeyman at back-strap bootmaking, two at snarrow and one at shoes.

February. Waterston, Pray & Co. advertise twenty-four crates crockery ware at and below Boston prices. They also offer for sale their stores in Kennebunk and Berwick. In June, admit Hercules M. Hayes as partner in the business that may be transacted at their brick store in Kennebunk, and give notice that their business at Alfred, under firm name of Waterston, Pray & Co., will thereafter be done under firm name of Samuel Silsbee & Co.

Several of the traders kept schoolbooks for sale. Thomas Drew appears to take the lead in this department; keeps for sale Bibles and Testaments, Morse's, Parish's and Dwight's Geographies, Walch's, Pike's, Merrill's and Kimball's Arithmetics, Perry's Dictionary, Columbian Orator, Art of Reading, American Preceptor, American Selections, American Reader, a new schoolbook, Webster and Perry's Spelling Books; also, Watts's Psalms and Hymns.

John Strothers and Hosah Goodwin advertise for master brickmaker. There were two brickyards in the village,—one on Wonder Brook, a short distance back of the present residence of Hartley Lord, and one in Barnard's pasture, a short distance south of the present residence of Charles Kelley and others on Park Street.

Timothy Frost, English and West India goods, etc., store under Washington Hall.

William Hackett, English and West India goods, etc., store under Washington Hall.

Ebenezer Curtis, West India goods and groceries, at store nearly opposite Benjamin Smith's bake house.

Joshua Blood, hatter, advertises furs. The shop was next, easterly, to lot on which Warren's Block now stands. Blood was here several years. Alexander Warren worked for him as a journeyman in 1808. Blood left town in July, 1811. Warren continued the business at the same stand.



Rev. Asa Piper, of Wakefield, N. H., advertises farm on which Stephen Thacher resides. The old "Parson Little place," is now known as George T. Jones's Sanford Road Hay Farm.

William Jellerson, under date of Dover, April 12, requests that demands against him be presented for payment. Mr. Jellerson died at Kennebunk Landing, January 18, 1812.

July. John Mayall and James Radcliffe intend to carry on the carding business at Ricker's mill, in Shapleigh; "they were regularly brought up at the manufacturing of woolen cloth in all its various branches and served apprenticeships at the business in England."

Francis Watts will let the large and commodious store nearly opposite Mrs. Lord's, Kennebunk Landing.

The commissioned officers of sixth regiment, first brigade and sixth division of Massachusetts Militia are notified to appear at Washington Hall, eighth August, for consultation in reference to a martial music school.

J. K. Remich advertises for sale Dr. Emerson's Fourth of July oration and Burton's sermon at ordination of Rev. Benjamin White as pastor of the First Parish in Wells.

October 12. Samuel Mendum advertises tailoring business.

"War! war! war! with wild cats, foxes, raccoons, squirrels and all venomous animals. It is proposed to have a gunning party next Monday. The sharpshooters of Wells and Arundel are invited to meet at Major Jefferds's one hour before sunrise on said morning; then to proceed to that piece of woods which extends from Samuel Mildram's to the cross road from Captain Morrill's to Maryland Ridge. It is not necessary for every man to have a gun; axes, etc., will be wanted. Boys of all ages are invited, for the plan is to drive the woods in two lines to meet in the center." A gunning party was an annual occurrence while game was plentiful in this vicinity. A supper at Jefferds's—composed in part of some of the game that had been taken, "baked, roasted and stewed"—closed the day's proceedings.

Edmund Pierson removes from the tanyard on Scotchman's Brook to his new yard on the western side of Mousam River, just below the new grist mill, so-called, owned by Major Jefferds and Mr. Gillpatrick, where he will continue to carry on the tanning and currying business. Ferguson's machine shop, destroyed by fire, was the building put up by Pierson, and the iron machine shop the "new grist-mill" building.

Ralph Curtis takes and operates the Scotchman's Brook tannery. The site of this tannery is covered with greensward now and the old bark mill that stood there has been hauled on to Main Street and fitted up for a store (Mrs. Lawrence's) on the lower floor and for a dwelling-house on the upper.

October 16. Hardy & Perkins, tanners, dissolve copartnership. Perkins continues the business. Hardy died of quick consumption, October 19, aged twenty-nine years.

December 15. James K. Remich, who has been duly authorized by the commander in chief, calls a meeting of petitioners to be incorporated into a volunteer light infantry company, to be known as the "Prætonian Band." Several meetings of these petitioners were held between above-named date and the twenty-third of April following. Mr. Remich was chosen captain unanimously, but his business engagements compelled him to decline the office. The company could not agree upon any other person to fill the place and it was never fully organized. It is said that the artillery company owed its existence to this movement.

H. Low requests persons indebted to him for tuition of their children to make payment. He taught the public school in the village in the winter of 1810-11 and two terms of a private school in the summer of 1811.

John Chadbourne cautions the public to beware of a swindler. Chadbourne was a blacksmith and built the main part of the house on Summer Street occupied by George C. Farnum and Mrs. Daniel L. Hatch. His shop was a few rods farther down the street.

Waterston, Pray & Co. advertise American manufactured goods on consignment; bed tickings, sheetings and shirtings, checks, stripes, ginghams and yarns assorted. Will sell to traders on same terms that they can be bought at the factory.

#### 1812.

January 1. In a list of letters remaining in the post office are several for persons in Lyman and Sanford.

Michael Wise, English and West India goods and groceries.

February 7. Jeremiah Paul will sell at auction one hundred and forty prime Spanish hides.

Order of notice is published, on petition of Eliphalet Pearson, for partition of four thousand acres of land in Sanford, of which he owns one-twelfth part.

March 20. Mayall & Radcliffe give notice that they have erected a machine, in Kennebunk, for the purpose of carding cotton into rolls, and that they are erecting a machine for carding sheep's wool on a new and improved plan, superior to any ever before used in this part of the country, which will be completed in the following June. This marks the date of the initiatory step in manufacturing cotton or woolen in this town.

April. Lowd & Rogers, painters and glaziers. Shop in the Grant building. Dissolve copartnership in September following. Lowd continues the business.

David Little advertises three dwelling-houses for sale, between Samuel Lord's (nearly opposite McCulloch's) and Emery's wharf.

John Skeele gives notice that he has entered in the clerk's office of the United States District Court for Massachusetts the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, viz.: "The New England Grammar," being a concise system of the English language, designed for the use of schools and private persons. This book was printed by James K. Remich, and was advertised as published and for sale, May 9. It is believed that not a copy of this Grammar is extant.

May 15. James Titcomb advertises goods, nearly opposite the meeting-house, in the building now next east of the Warren Block.

One hundred dollars reward is offered for information of the person who set fire to the schoolhouse (Burnham's District) in Arundel, which was burned August 7. Signed by James and Israel Burnham, Samuel and Enoch T. Colman, William Luis, Thomas and Jedediah Dorman, Timothy Hanscom, Daniel, Charles and Benjamin Huff, Jr., Samuel Hutchins, Daniel Towne, Seth Burnham, John Nason, Jeremiah Dunham, Joseph Towne, Daniel, Dummer and Ephraim Mitchell, Moses, Ebenezer and Asa Burbank, Moses F. Thompson, Abner Perkins, John Dorman, Jeremiah Miller, Joshua Downing, Andrew and John Miller, John and David Lord, Edward and Daniel Nason. We presume that the persons whose names are here given composed the entire male adult population of the district at the date mentioned, unless a very few were absent on sea voyages at the time.

The farm of Abraham Littlefield, Jr., three miles from Kennebunk meeting-house, on the Alfred road, is offered for sale. "There is a good one-story house on the same."



1813.

January 13. Tobias Lord and twelve others petition the Massachusetts Legislature for an act of incorporation, they having, "at a very considerable expense, erected a bridge over Kennebunk River, in the towns of Wells and Arundel, whereby the distance between the port of Kennebunk and Portsmouth is shortened nearly five miles, and the inhabitants of the aforesaid towns very much accommodated." They also ask that they may be authorized to collect such tolls on said bridge as may be reasonable and just. An act of incorporation, with power to collect tolls, was granted by the Legislature of 1814. Carriages and teams on the western side of the river in the lower part of the town were compelled to go to the Landing and thence across Durrell's Bridge to the Port and *vice versa*.

April. George Jefferds advertises store recently occupied by him for sale or to let. The store and dwelling-house on second floor stood about a rod below the present factory counting-room, so-called. It was subsequently occupied for several years by Samuel Ross, as a store and dwelling-house, and when he vacated, about 1825, it was removed across the street, a rod or two west of the upper dam, where it now stands.

April 16. Phineas Stevens, watchmaker and jeweler, keeps for sale an assortment of watches and jewelry.

Nathaniel Frost, Enoch Hardy and Timothy Frost, committee, request all persons who belong, or wish to belong, to the "Silver Grey Company of Kennebunk" to meet at Washington Hall to choose officers, etc., and in the following week publish a "card." "Those patriots composing the Silver Grey Company of Kennebunk are respectfully requested to accept the thanks of their committee for their *prompt attention* to the notification in the last *Visiter*." We find no farther notice of this company; we presume, however, that it was composed of exempts.

Miss Grant gives notice that she has opened a school for the instruction of young ladies. This school was continued several years, under the tuition of Sarah and Ann Grant, daughters of Capt. John Grant, in the L of the Grant building. It was well patronized; besides the daughters of residents, young ladies from the neighboring and interior towns came here to attend it.

May 1. Tobias Lord and Henry Clark, Arundel, dissolve copartnership. Clark continues the business.

September. Daniel Moody commences the clothier's business at Nason's Mills.

William Taylor sells at auction, December 2, the lots on which have since been erected Palmer Walker's store (now Andrew Walker's), the brick store (Warren Block), Timothy Frost's store (now Cyrus Stevens's tenement house), the lot now occupied by the engine house, the lots "on the new road which has been lately opened" (now Green Street), on which stand the houses owned and occupied by Charles and Cyrus Stevens and Jacob Stewart and "a house partly finished," now the property of Dr. Richards's heirs.

1814.

January. Jefferds and Gillpatrick advertise for sale or to let the cotton and woolen factory now occupied by Mayall and Radcliffe. This building, which "was erected expressly for the purpose, is fifty-six by thirty-six, three stories at one end, and is commodiously fitted up for the residence of a family and may be enlarged to any size."

Stephen Thacher (in Storer's "long store") advertises a great variety of American manufactured goods; wants to buy hogs, bristles and mustard seed.

Waterston, Pray & Hayes (Joseph M.), at Saco, dissolve copartnership. Hayes continues the business.

Samuel Lord, Kennebunk Landing, advertises for sale "brig Rover, 198 tons, built in 1807." His store stood on the corner of the street leading to Durrell's Bridge and the commonly traveled road to the Port, his house on the Port Road a few rods from the corner (owned and occupied several years by Capt. Dummer Lord, destroyed by fire several years ago).

Jesse Taylor advertises one-fourth part of saw-mill and privilege, in Wells, together with his homestead and several lots of land.

March. Isaac Kilham, at Kennebunk Landing, advertises for plank.

"Tobias Lord retails good molasses at one dollar per gallon."

George Wheelwright, clerk, offers ten dollars reward for detection of person who stole two axes belonging to the fire engine.

John Low, John U. Parsons and Joseph Moody, committee, notify stockholders of Kennebunk Bank to meet at John Patten's (innholder) to make by-laws, etc. The bank opened for the transaction of business April 1, Joseph Moody, President, Henry Clark, Cashier.

Stephen Thacher will sell his stock in trade at auction April 25.

June. James Mayall is erecting a wool carding machine at Ricker's Mills, in Shapleigh.

Samuel Mendum advertises for one thousand yards of tow cloth. Flax was raised quite extensively in Wells and the neighboring towns for many years. Tow cloth was manufactured in farmers' families for their own use and for the market. It always found a ready sale at the stores in town.

James Osborn, Jr., advertises goods.

July 29. Joseph Thomas gives notice that "York Lodge will be installed at Kennebunk, in *ample form*, on Thursday, the twenty-fifth of August next. An oration will be delivered on the occasion by M. W. Brother Simon Greenleaf. A general attendance of the brethren is requested."

August. Timothy Keser advertises for ship timber and plank, and for from fourteen to eighteen ship carpenters to commence work on the fifteenth.

Flaxseed and juniper berries were advertised for frequently by traders.

August 13. Joseph Porter and Enoch Illsley give notice that they will supply the market with beef and other viands.

September 2. John Fifield "intends supplying this market and the wharves with meats of all kinds." He relinquishes the business the eighteenth of November of same year.

September. Henry Clark, at Arundel, advertises that he will, at an early day, sell his stock of goods at auction and relinquish trade.

September 10. James Titcomb and John Skeele form a copartnership and take store two doors eastward of Mr. Titcomb's former stand, formerly occupied by Loammi Hooper; West India goods, groceries and hardware.

Mayall & Radcliffe advertise for lamb skins.

William Safford advertises for lamb skins. Mr. Safford was the first hatter in town, unless Howard carried on the business in 1788 and until 1802. The dilapidated old building occupied by Safford as a shop stood near the foot of Alfred Street; it was subsequently purchased and torn down by Mr. George Parsons. This was the first building put up on that street, which was laid out and built 1797-1800. We think the shop was erected two or three years before the road was regularly laid out. Afterward Mr. Safford bought an old building, moved it to the lot adjoining the shop and fitted it up for a dwelling-house. Part of this building has been torn down, the remainder reconverted into a barn. He married Lois Knowlton, of Ipswich, February, 1801.



Thomas Drew will sell remainder of his stock of goods at auction September 15. He also gives notice that he has engaged for one month a steady and competent man to carry on the butchering and marketing business; if encouraged, a regular market will be established.

William Gillpatrick, Secretary, advertises that the quarterly meeting of the "Allodian Society" will be held at Washington Hall December 19, and, in a later number of the *Visiter*, that an oration will be delivered before this society, at Washington Hall, February 8, 1815. We find no further notice respecting the promised oration and no additional mention of the society. Probably it was a political organization which the prospect of peace in the near future, and the presumption that no more land taxes would be levied on the people by the general government, rendered it unnecessary or inexpedient to continue.

1815.

February 3. William Taylor advertises for ship timber. Taylor's store stood next west to the Hillard house, on the lot now the lawn in front of Mr. Hartley Lord's residence, and his blacksmith's shop near where Mr. Lord's barn stands. Taylor so enlarged his business that he could not give personal attention to the shop and he leased it to John Chadbourne who worked there a short time. Taylor bought considerable ship timber, and in the spring, when the sledding here was bad and grew worse toward the Landing and harbor, the teams were unloaded in the space between his dwelling-house (now Mrs. J. S. Perkins's) and Mr. Lord's, which was sometimes filled and the road opposite encroached upon. Here it was usually hewn before being hauled to the shipyard. This store was afterward fitted up for a dwelling-house, and, later, an addition was made to it nearly equal in size to the original building. In this house, at different times, lived Moses Littlefield, Paul Junkins, Capt. Thomas Lord, Mr. Blaisdell, John Goodwin and others. Miss Esther Hatch was the last tenant. It was hauled to the Port District and is now occupied as a dwelling-house.

March 15. Samuel Silsbee & Co., at Alfred, dissolve copartnership.

Eliphalet Perkins and thirty-five others, inhabitants of Wells and Arundel, petition Legislature of Massachusetts for leave to build a free bridge over Kennebunk River, about half a mile above the toll bridge, over and across said river.

June 9. Joseph B. Emerson, son of Dr. Samuel, advertises kine pock matter. It was believed to be the first in town.

June. Timothy Kezer offers ten dollars and fifty cents per thousand for pine boards. Smith & Porter, same date, offer ten dollars per thousand.

William Hackett removes from store under Washington Hall, western end, to store lately occupied by Nathaniel Frost, under the printing office. Frost had removed to a new store built by him on the western corner of his home lot (now occupied by N. Dane, Jr.), adjoining the lot where now stands Abraham Hill's house. Here he kept the usual country store assortment of goods, together with a good stock of medicines. After his decease this building had many tenants of different occupations, who will be mentioned as we proceed. A number of years ago it was purchased by Charles Herrick and moved to the lot adjoining, north, Safford's building, and later to the opposite side of the street. Herrick improved it several years as a shoe shop and store. It was later occupied by Charles Perkins, provisions, etc.

James K. Remich advertises a full assortment of books, stationery, justice and court blanks, etc., at his office counting-room.

William Hackett buys lumber of all kinds; has a full supply of all goods usually found in a country store.

July 14. John U. Parsons and Moses Savary (Parsons's stepson) form copartnership; "will open at the white store fronting the road which leads to Alfred," then just built by Savary.

Joshua Tolford, watch and clock maker, offers for sale "rich jewelry"; commences business here in "a shop a few rods south of Kennebunk meeting-house," probably in the Grant store, but this is not certainly known. He moved to Portland, whence he came, after remaining in town about a year.

Nathaniel Mendum, blacksmith, "in future will furnish work at the former stand, now carried on by Jacob Waterhouse & Co." The shop was near by and west of Gillpatrick's; it was torn down or removed several years ago.

August 14. James Kimball, Jr., sold at auction his house, barn and blacksmith shop, together with twelve acres of land adjoining. Joseph Dane was the purchaser. The house, which has been somewhat improved, is still standing and for some years was occupied by Mrs. Hilton. The blacksmith's shop, which stood at the rear of the building occupied by A. W. Bragdon as a tailor shop,

was torn down after it was vacated by Mr. Kimball, who bought and removed to a farm in Kennebunkport. A street, known as Dane Street, was laid out through the field, extending to the lot now occupied by the High School Building; the lot on which the school building stands was also a part of this field. Kimball had sold from his homestead, before the above-named auction sale, the lot on which stands the building just mentioned as having been occupied by A. W. Bragdon and others, which was built by Moses Savary in the fall of 1814. It was painted white, while other stores on the street were painted yellow; hence it came to be known as the "white store."

Waterston, Pray & Co. sell their stock in trade at auction, the sale commencing the twenty-third of August. This firm removed to Boston, where they established a wholesale dry goods business; they were very successful.

September. Hodsdon & White, cabinet makers and house carpenters, dissolved copartnership.

September. Parsons, Savary and Thomas Drew form a copartnership, under the firm name of John U. Parsons & Co., and take the brick store, which had been vacated by Waterston, Pray & Co.

Titcomb & Skeele remove to the white store, vacated by Parsons & Savary.

October. Perkins and Chamberlin, tanners and curriers, form a copartnership and carry on business at Perkins's former stand, on the Alfred road.

Smith & Porter advertise for white and red oak hogshead and barrel staves, treenails, red oak plank, lath wood, oak butts, oak, beech, birch, maple, ash and elm timber.

Mrs. Nichols's house, on the lot now owned by the heirs of the late Mrs. John Mitchell, on the Alfred road, was sold at auction November 11. It was purchased by Joseph Thomas and moved to the lot on which stands building owned by George E. and William Littlefield. After Thomas's death (1830) it was moved to the western end of the triangular lot and had many different tenants. It was destroyed by fire.

November. Moses Varney, from Dover, N. H., commences business in the western part of Stephen Tucker's tailor shop (in the building afterward owned and occupied by Mrs. Raynes, since moved and utilized as a shed). He manufactured ladies' morocco shoes and kept a full assortment on hand for sale. He was remarkably well patronized.



John Gillespie proposes to teach an evening school.

November 14. The sharpshooters in the vicinity are invited to meet at Colonel Taylor's "for the purpose of driving the woods from that starting place to Kennebunk meeting-house. . . . Bring boys, guns, clubs, dogs, tooting horns and a little bread and cheese."

December 20. Dixey Stone takes store formerly occupied by Thomas Drew, in Taylor's building.

1816.

January 5. Seaver, Palmer & Co. open a store next to that of John U. Parsons & Co., in a one-story building, which was hauled to the vacant lot near the corner of Main and Fletcher Streets, as now designated.

Thomas Bramley takes store eastern end of Washington Hall Building, recently vacated by Timothy Frost, who had moved his stock of groceries, etc., to the new building erected by him on the opposite side of the street, at present owned by Cyrus Stevens and improved as a double tenement dwelling-house. Bramley was a butcher and in addition to a good stock of provisions kept West India goods and groceries. He occupied the dwelling-house afterward Mrs. Hillard's, and his slaughter house was in the barn a few rods below; the former was removed, the latter torn down. He remained in town a year or two. His leave-taking was not strictly in accordance with the Golden Rule.

January 20. Enoch Hardy advertises two house lots. One is that on which the brick dwelling-house owned and occupied by the heirs of Capt. Franklin N. Thompson now stands (built by Dr. Burleigh Smart in 1825), the other that on which the dwelling-house of Robert Smith, Jr., now stands; this is the house built by Capt. Jeremiah Paul on the lot where stands the dwelling-house of Frederick P. Hall, and was moved to its present location by Capt. George Lord about 1833, shortly before he built the house now occupied by Mr. Hall. Joseph Dane owned and occupied this house several years.

Stephen Titcomb's farm, on west side of Kennebunk River, one hundred and eighty acres, a considerable portion of which was valuable pine growth, with house and barn, situated between Kennebunk Landing and the wharves, was advertised by the executors of his will to be sold at auction, March 27. The house and a portion of the tillage land is now owned and occupied by George Dresser.

Stephen Webster advertises the house where he lives, near Samuel Lord's, on the cross road leading to John Butland's.

May. Chase W. French & Co. commence business, cabinet makers, with a good stock of furniture ready made, at the shop formerly occupied by Titcomb & Skeelee, in eastern part of Taylor's building (the dwelling-house of Ebenezer Huff and Mrs. Johnson Webber).

Nathaniel Frost keeps a large stock of medicines.

June 28. House lately occupied by Capt. James Hibbard, at Kennebunk Landing, for sale. It was owned by Samuel Durrell for many years. It stood near the present site of Charles Stevens's dwelling-house; it was destroyed by fire.

Luther Kimball, Kennebunk Landing, chaise, wagon and cabinet work.

July 8. Miss Ann Grant commences a school for tuition of young ladies in English branches, "embroidery, print work, drawing, painting, tambour, filigree, plain sewing, marking, working muslin."

September 12. William Jefferds advertises for sale or lease for five or ten years his tavern stand, his mills on Mousam River, consisting of one-fourth part of a double saw-mill, one-half part of two grist-mills, with two run of stones in each, and one-half part of the cotton and woolen factory, also one hundred and fifty acres of land in three lots. Mr. Jefferds, it is understood, continued in possession of this property for several years subsequently to the date of his advertisement.

John U. Parsons and others advertise for black cherries and flaxseed.

October. Nathaniel Littlefield occupies the store under Washington Hall recently vacated by William Hackett, and offers for sale a very large stock of piece goods, crockery ware, etc.

Nathaniel Mendum advertises the "hay farm" on Branch River, fifty-five acres, with barn thereon. This farm was for many years subsequently owned and improved by Capt. John Hovey. It is now in possession of Edmund Warren.

November 8. Samuel L. Osborn, in the store then just completed on the corner of Main and Alfred Streets, offers for sale an extensive variety of goods usually kept in a country store.

1817.

The hull and appurtenances of the brig Columbia, "as she now lies on the beach, about two miles westward of Kennebunk Harbor,

will be sold at auction, for the benefit of the underwriters, February 25." Joseph Moody, Agent.

Michael Wise advertises an additional supply of piece goods, West India goods and groceries, hard and hollow ware, books and stationery.

Stephen Thacher advertises to commence the second term of his "Academical School" April 1. This was an excellent school. The number of scholars was restricted to thirty. The method of instruction was somewhat unique, but was remarkably well calculated to advance his pupils in their studies. It was continued prosperously until Mr. Thacher removed to Lubec, in 1818. The school was kept in the parlor of his dwelling-house (now Woodbury A. Hall's). The post office was also kept in an apartment in the southerly corner of the house. Mr. Thacher was postmaster and judge of probate as well as teacher. He was also a trader, keeping on hand for sale a large stock of all the goods usually found in a country store. He advertised, January, 1817, "an elegant assortment of American cloths, manufactured from merino wool, consisting of black and blue broadcloths, mixed and blue narrow cloths, satinets and flannels," twenty per cent. cheaper than English cloths, of similar quality, can be bought for. He was, likewise, an amateur farmer, the raising of merino sheep being the branch of husbandry to which he gave the larger share of his attention.

Peter Folsom's house was sold at auction, April 12, and was purchased by Joseph Thomas. One-half of the lower floor of this building was improved as a saddler's shop. The building, a good-sized two-story house, stood between the house now owned by the heirs of Horace Porter and that belonging to Mrs. John Hill. Mr. Folsom died on the eighteenth day of April. In July Palmer Walker takes the shop formerly occupied by Folsom and continues the business of harness making, etc.

May 4. Miss Ann Grant advertises to open a "Young Ladies' School, for boarding and day scholars." This was a very popular school. Among its pupils were several from the interior towns in the county.

May. Miss Sarah Grant advertises a fine assortment of millinery goods. This was a well-patronized millinery establishment for several years.

June. Nathaniel Jeffers and Paul Hussey form a copartnership and purchase all the machinery in the factory formerly improved by Mayall & Radcliffe and continue, in the building that was occupied



by that firm, the business of carding, spinning, weaving and manufacturing cloth. They will also carry on the business of carding, etc., at Nason's Mill in Arundel.

July 5. Abial Kelley advertises auction sales at the new brick store of Kelley & Warren.

September 16. George and Ivory Lord form a copartnership and offer for sale, at Kennebunk Landing, a full assortment of all goods usually found in a country store.

September. Ebenezer Shackley removes from store near the mill yard to store on first floor of Edmund Pearson's dwelling-house (now in possession of William Fairfield).

Jotham Perkins and Thomas B. Chamberlin, tanners and curriers, dissolve copartnership.

October 16. John Scamman, in Bartlett's building, west of the brick store, makes and repairs boots and shoes. He did not tarry in town more than a year.

Nathaniel Thompson, of Arundel, master of new brig Trident, advertises her for freight or charter to a Southern port or the West Indies; will sail about twentieth of November.

November. Stephen Thacher advertises very rich merino cloths, dressed by William Barrett, at Malden, manufactured of wool from Mr. Thacher's sheep; one piece of this cloth received a premium of twenty dollars, at Brighton, for its superior fineness and beauty.

December. Moses Varney removes from Tucker's building to the store recently occupied by Capt. Nathaniel Frost, nearly opposite the brick store.

Samuel Silsbee offers his services as an auctioneer; has a desk and privilege of receiving consignments in Mr. Varney's shop.

J. K. Remich advertises an Address delivered at Dover, N. H., October 23, by John Holmes, at the Installation of Stafford Lodge, and notifies subscribers for "Robinson's History of Baptism" that the book is ready for delivery at his office.

1818.

January 20, 21 and 22. Davenport Tucker (in store recently owned and improved by Andrew Walker) sells his stock of goods at auction. The store is now occupied by "Kennebunk Free Library Association."

Benjamin Stevens establishes himself in Kennebunk as a hatter. Shop on lower floor of Taylor & Hill's building.

April 12. Barnabas Palmer gives notice that having been "unexpectedly called to a new and important office" he shall rigidly execute the laws of the Commonwealth respecting the impounding of cattle and swine going at large. Palmer had been elected by the town field driver and hogreeve, an office with which he was not well pleased, and he determined to carry out the provisions of the law thoroughly and "without fear or affection"; but in carrying out his resolution he imposed on himself a practical joke, which no one enjoyed telling, in after time, more than Palmer himself. A few days after the publication of this pronunciamiento Mr. Palmer espied a good-sized hog passing his store, going in an easterly direction. To go into the street, armed with a bludgeon, and "head off" the porker was the work of a few moments only, but the beast was contumacious, turning, dodging and making desperate sallies. Although his progress was slow and wearisome, Palmer persisted in his efforts to drive the animal toward the pound, and in the conflict his nether garment was badly rent in divers places. Mr. Benjamin Smith, looking up street, saw the collection of jolly spectators and Mr. Palmer's laborious operations and at once repaired to the scene of the skirmish and proffered his services; but the twain found it a difficult task to urge the porker forward and keep him in the right direction. Arriving opposite the homestead of Mr. Smith, that gentleman proposed, inasmuch as his pigsty was without a tenant, to drive the pugnacious beast into it. This was done and the hog was shut up. Mr. Palmer thanked Mr. Smith for his kindness. "Oh, no," said Mr. Smith, "I am the obliged party; the hog is mine and I can't imagine how he contrived to get out of the sty; he is, however, through your kindness, safely back into his old quarters." Palmer saw the point at once; he had *returned* but not impounded the beast, and he could, at his leisure, reckon up his loss in broadcloth destroyed and labor misapplied.

May. Enos Hoag purchases the whole stock in trade of Nathaniel Littlefield and continues the business at the old stand.

May 22. Notice is given that the Kennebunk post office has been removed to the store of Seaver, Palmer & Co.

Dr. Fisher advertises Monroe potatoes, raised by him from the seed, "as much superior to the common potatoes as Monroe is to Jefferson."

June 1. Stephen Thacher sells household furniture, farming utensils, etc., at auction.

William B. Nason advertises the farm whereon he lives for sale, situated a few rods from the meeting-house and consisting of a large two-story dwelling-house and a barn, seventy acres of land and a large and thrifty orchard. (It was originally the Currier place. Norrish Wiggin's house stands near the site of the dwelling-house above named.)

William Taylor sells at auction his former homestead, then occupied by Timothy Frost and Capt. James Hubbard, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Sarah C. Perkins. Charles W. Williams was the purchaser. He also purchased the dwelling-house and outbuildings then occupied by Thomas Bramley, the Hillard house, which was moved to Water Street in the spring of 1885. Joseph Porter was the purchaser; he was also the purchaser of a large lot of land in the rear of these buildings, on which, at the time, was an excellent brickyard which was sold at the same time; he also bought the store then occupied by Mr. B. Stevens as a hatter's shop and by a family on the upper floor (Mrs. Hewes's house); also the dwelling-house nearly finished, and about half an acre of land adjacent, then occupied by the widow Hill, now the residence and property of the heirs of the late Dr. Lemuel Richards.

Daniel Hodsdon and Edward White dissolve copartnership. Hodsdon carries on the business. White moves to the Port; he was an excellent mechanic; he subsequently removed to Roxbury, Mass.

Stephen Smith's homestead, at Kennebunk Landing, eleven rods below Luther Kimball's lot, advertised for sale.

December 25. Palmer Walker occupies the new building he has recently erected, "where he continues to carry on saddle and harness making" (the building later owned by Andrew Walker, corner of Main and Green Streets).

December 25. Dr. Burleigh Smart commences the practice of medicine at Arundel; office at J. Patten's Hotel.

1819.

January 1. Shares "in the new hay scales, near the meeting-house" were advertised for sale. These were old-style scales and occupied the site of similar ones that were blown down and destroyed during the September gale, 1818.

January 1. Seaver, Palmer & Co. dissolve copartnership. Palmer continues the business.



February 13. James Kimball, Jr., sells at auction the lot, bounded by land of Enoch Hardy and Jonas Clark and opposite Joseph Porter's dwelling-house, on which Joseph Dane's house, destroyed by fire, stood. Jonas Clark purchased it.

February. Ralph Curtis offers for sale a two-story house, forty by thirty, one hundred rods from the meeting-house, on the road leading to the Landing. This house was built several years previously by Benjamin Littlefield, familiarly known as "Uncle Ben." It stood opposite the road leading to the depot. Mr. Chick has recently erected a dwelling-house on a part of this lot. The building stood there a number of years after the date of the advertisement and had many different occupants; it was moved "down town" by Mr. Curtis and is now owned by his heirs.

Hepzibah Shackley advertises farm about one mile from Kennebunk meeting-house; has a good one-story house and a barn on the premises. "Inquire of Clement Shackley" or the advertiser.

March 12. John Lillie opens an apothecary's shop in Kelley & Warren's new brick building. He vacated the store a few years later and was succeeded by Dr. Burleigh Smart, who relinquished the business and was succeeded by Alexander Warren. Dr. Lemuel Richards succeeded Warren, and Dr. George Bourne & Brother succeeded to the business established more than seventy years ago.

Benjamin Stevens and Timothy Weare, hatters, dissolve copartnership. Weare continues the business. Weare remained in town only a few months after the copartnership had been dissolved.

May 24. The assessors of the town of Wells give notice that their office is in Kennebunk, at the office of Joseph Thomas.

The hull of the brig Franklin, "as she lies on the beach," with all the rigging, etc., belonging to said brig, was sold at auction June 1. We find no particulars respecting the loss of this brig.

June 1. Joseph G. Woods enters into partnership with Enos Hoag.

Joseph M. Hayes removes to Kennebunk and takes the store on the first floor of Palmer Walker's new building.

William Gillpatrick advertises West India goods and groceries in the store formerly occupied by his father, Richard Gillpatrick.

July. Dr. Alexander Hatch, of Doughty's Falls, announces his intention to publish his new book, "The Library of Divinity," at once. It was printed by James K. Remich.

James K. Remich gives notice that he has in press and will publish in a few days the trial of Jacob Cochrane, reported by Gamaliel E. Smith, of Newfield.

August 28. Nathaniel Mendum takes the shop of Edmund Lord, near the western end of the village bridge, and continues the blacksmith's business under the care of Mr. James Ross.

Moses Varney removes to the building recently vacated by Barnabas Palmer, who has taken the store (now occupied by Fairfield & Littlefield) in the "Exchange," the name by which Kelley & Warren's brick building was known for several years. Palmer removes the post office to this building.

October 20. Edward E. Bourne opens a law office in Kelley's building.

October 23. Samuel L. Osborn forms a partnership with his brother, James Osborn, Jr.

## CHAPTER XXI.

THE WAR OF 1812-15—"THE HORSE MARINE"—PRESIDENT MONROE  
IN KENNEBUNK—THE CAVALRY COMPANY—THE ARTILLERY  
COMPANY.

A large majority of the inhabitants of Wells were strongly opposed to the war with Great Britain;<sup>1</sup> they did not believe that sufficient cause existed to warrant the declaration; they did not believe that self-respect, as a nation, or patriotic regards for the rights and interests of the whole people demanded a step so blighting to the prosperity of the entire country. That there were causes for complaint they readily admitted, but that they were so serious as to require immediate recourse to the "last resort" without farther effort to maintain the national honor except by bloodshed, they could not admit. They would not buckle to Great Britain. If it should be found that her insolent bearing and measures hostile to our interests were parts of a deliberately formed policy to insult and injure us, then the provocation would be undeniable; then they would be ready and anxious to risk their "lives and fortunes" in "battling for the right." Political parties in this country, we apprehend, were never more thoroughly divided, never opposed each other with greater bitterness than during the progress of this war; the war party, then called Republicans, and the anti-war party, called Federalists, denounced each other in the most opprobrious terms.

At a legal town meeting held in Wells on the twenty-seventh day of July, 1812, a series of resolutions "prepared by a large and respectable committee, of which the Hon. Nathaniel Wells was chairman, were several times read and fully understood, and were unanimously accepted and ordered to be published in the *Weekly Visitor* as containing the sentiments of the said town." The third of these resolutions is as follows:—

*Resolved*, "That we consider the war which has been declared as unjustifiable, unnecessary and inexpedient, whether viewed in reference to the prospect of obtaining the object for which it has

<sup>1</sup>"War declared to exist between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof and the United States and their territories, June 18, 1812."



been waged, the countless disasters it will bring upon our immense commerce which has been the nerve and sinew of our government and is now floating defenseless on the waves of the ocean, or the inevitable and burdensome system of taxes which its loss must unavoidably bring to every man's door."

We copy from the *Visiter* the following interesting items in reference to incidents growing out of the war:—

Cleared from this port private armed sloop Gleaner Packet, Robinson,<sup>1</sup> bound on a cruise, July 18, 1812, and on the eighth of the following August we are told that "the Gleaner of this port, six guns and fifty men, has been taken, together with her second prize, and sent to Halifax."

Arrived at this port 20th July, brig Concord, Daniel Tripp, master, from Ireland, in ballast, with Irish passengers. On the eleventh<sup>t</sup> at six P. M. was boarded by H. M. brig Emulous, eighteen guns. His papers were taken and he was ordered to follow the Emulous. The next day the papers were returned and nineteen American prisoners sent on board and the order repeated to follow the Emulous. At eight P. M., while the Emulous was engaged in boarding a vessel she had brought to, Captain Tripp made all sail and got clear of her.

August 1, 1812. The ship owners in this district have been remarkably fortunate since the declaration of war in that there have been numerous arrivals of vessels belonging to this port within a few weeks, but by advices published in this day's paper it appears that the Vesper, of this port, which had been captured, and was recaptured by a Salem privateer, has again been taken and sent into Halifax. We learn, also, that the Horison, of this port, was captured, but subsequently escaped and has arrived at Portland.

Cartel schooner Regulation, of Kennebunk, arrived at Portsmouth, N. H., 23d November, 1812, seven days from Halifax, bound to Boston; put in in consequence of severe weather, had on

<sup>1</sup>Capt. Joshua Robinson, of this town, married Narcissa, daughter of Capt. Jeremiah Paul. Capt. Robinson and crew were sent from Halifax to Dartmoor Prison. The author has in his possession a small volume entitled "Rhyme and Reason" (presented to him by Mrs. Robinson) which belonged to the "Dartmoor Prison Library" and which Captain Robinson brought home after he had been released from his incarceration. This prison is situated in the center of the western quarter of the County of Devon, England, about fourteen hundred feet above the sea level, at Dartmoor, "remarkable for its wild and rugged scenery, its towering rock-capped hills and the numerous streams that have their source in its boggy soil." It was built in 1806 especially for the "accommodation" of French prisoners of war, and cost about six hundred and fifty thousand dollars. "It is now used as a depot for convicts."

board parts of the crews of five coasting vessels that had been taken by a British cruiser.

May 1, 1813. On Monday last an English frigate was in Wells Bay most of the forenoon; she was so near the shore that the officers were seen in the rigging and on her quarters who were looking at the villages along shore; a man who was heaving the lead was also distinctly seen.

May 19, 1813. Private armed ship *Alexander*, of Salem, eighteen guns, *Crowninshield*, master, was chased on shore near and west of Great Hill by the British sloop-of-war *Rattler*, twenty guns, and schooner *Bream*, four guns. Soon after the *Alexander* struck the shore the English took possession; they succeeded in getting off their prize without difficulty, as it was low water when she went ashore. The officers and crew of the *Alexander* numbered forty-eight and they had one hundred and twenty prisoners, having taken seven prizes during her cruise. Quite a number of the crew of the *Alexander* deserted her before the English got possession, some by means of the boats and some by swimming; one of the boats full of men upset between the *Alexander* and the shore, and it is supposed several were drowned. The dead body of a foreigner was found on the beach the next day.

As soon as the news spread that the *Alexander* had been chased ashore, the bell rang an alarm and several hundreds of the citizens of this town and Arundel repaired to the scene of the disaster, most of whom were well supplied with arms and ammunition. The commander of the *Rattler* sent one of his officers with a flag of truce, accompanied by one of the lieutenants of the *Alexander*, who informed our citizens that any attempt at rescue would be fruitless; that the officers of the *Alexander* had capitulated with their captors for the parole of the officers and crew and the restoration of their private property. The officers were landed, and those of the crew who had not escaped were put on board a coaster, bound to Boston, which the English had taken in our bay and which they now released.

The commander of the *Rattler* was very liberal and gentlemanly, and well he might be. The *Alexander* was a splendid ship and had surrendered without resistance. It is said that the English renamed her "The Gift."

A fishing boat belonging to this port, with four persons on board, was captured about eight P. M. on the fifth of August by a tender of the *Lahogue* frigate and detained until the next morning, when the

crew was released with a warning that, hereafter, any boat with more than two men in it, taken after sunset, would be burned. The men were courteously treated. During the night the tender captured two fishing schooners and two sloops; the former were released and the latter burned.

British ship *Bulwark*, seventy-four guns, anchored off Winter Harbor 16th June, 1814. She sent five barges to the shore, having on board from one hundred to one hundred and fifty men, who committed serious outrages. They burned a new brig and two coasters from Cape Cod loaded with lumber and destroyed the frame of a ship that had been recently put up by knocking it to pieces; they also took the ship *Victory*, then lying at the wharf, and towed her alongside the *Bulwark*, having previously entered the store<sup>1</sup> of Mr. Thomas Cutts and having taken therefrom the sails and rigging of the ship which had been deposited there; they took other articles from the store, such as clothing, liquor, tobacco, etc. Captain Cutts ransomed the ship for the sum of six thousand dollars, which proved a poor investment, as she was fitted for sea as soon as peace was declared, but was never heard from after she sailed from Biddeford Pool. Several hundred of the inhabitants from Saco and its neighborhood repaired to the Pool, but did not arrive there until the destructive work of the enemy had been accomplished. No other inhabitant of the Pool was molested. It was supposed at the time that one or more of the officers of the *Bulwark* entertained a personal spite against Cutts for some unknown reason and inflicted these injuries for revenge.

On Saturday, the eighteenth of June, the *Bulwark* made her appearance off Kennebunk Harbor. The inhabitants were seriously alarmed. Five companies of militia were ordered out and during the whole of the day were under arms. The *Bulwark* disappeared shortly and the companies were dismissed toward night, but a large number of volunteers remained to guard the coast and to give an alarm if necessary. Apprehensive that the *Bulwark* might return or that some other one of the enemy's war vessels might make an attack on the coast settlements, most of the shipping was moved up the river, the inhabitants of Kennebunkport sent their valuable effects and the best of their furniture out of town, and the specie was removed from the bank. There was not, however, during the war, any further cause for alarm. The British ships *Bulwark* and *Nymphe* were in sight from this town July eighth, but were steering in another direction.

Arrived at Cape Porpoise about the twenty-eighth of June, sloop

<sup>1</sup> Taken down in 1888.



Julia, Commary, owned by parties in Boston. Fifteen days previous, while on her passage from Boston to an eastern port in ballast, she was captured by a British privateer, a prize master and three men put on board, and then ordered to Halifax. The captain of the American sloop was permitted to remain, but the crew was sent to the privateer. When within a short distance of Halifax the Julia was driven on to the American coast in a gale; the prize master, who was unacquainted with the art of navigation, gave the management of the vessel to her former captain, who secreted the provisions from the prize crew and thus compelled them to put into harbor for a supply. She was taken, with the prize crew, into Cape Porpoise, as above, when our coast guard promptly took possession of her. The prize crew all the time supposed that they were making port in Nova Scotia.

The *Visitor* of September 14th says: "In this town and Arundel active measures of defense are being taken. Exempts of every age, capable of bearing arms, are organizing and equipping themselves to protect their homes and their country." By subsequent numbers of the paper we learn that a meeting of citizens of these towns was held at Mrs. Lord's store at Kennebunk Landing, on the nineteenth of September, by which a Committee of Safety was appointed, but neither the number or names of the persons of which it was composed are given. Immediately thereafter "a number of exempts formed themselves into a Volunteer Artillery Company, to aid in the defense of our town and harbor, and offered their services to the Committee of Safety to act under its direction." At a second meeting of the citizens of these towns, held in the meeting-house of the Second Parish in Wells on the twenty-sixth of September, "to take into consideration the defenseless condition of our seacoast and harbor and for other purposes," several companies of exempts were organized, formed of citizens of, and designed to operate in different localities in, Wells and Arundel. "Sixty-three signed the articles in Kennebunk Parish and many others were ready to do so." Of this company Dr. Jacob Fisher was chosen Captain, Maj. William Taylor, Lieutenant, and Maj. Timothy Frost, Ensign, who were authorized to appoint subordinate officers. They appointed John Low, Reuben Littlefield, Joseph Porter and Amos Stevens, Sergeants, and John Tripp, Joseph Taylor, William Taylor and John Fiddler, Corporals. In this company there were one judge, seven justices of the peace, one colonel, two majors, nine captains and several other commissioned military officers.

Bradbury, in his history of Kennebunkport, thus describes "the

situation" on the eastern side of the river: "To protect the harbor a small fort was built on Kennebunk Point and a battery on Butler's Rocks. A Volunteer Artillery Company was stationed at the fort, which was relieved by the Limington Artillery under the command of Captain Small. The coast was lined with British men-of-war and privateers, and frequently could the flames arising from some coasting vessel, which had fallen into the hands of the enemy, be seen from the village. In consequence of the risk in running from port to port provisions were extremely high. Flour was worth from fourteen to fifteen dollars a barrel, corn two dollars a bushel, molasses one dollar and a quarter a gallon and other articles proportionably high."

"Besides privateering several vessels were fitted out [1814] under the Danish flag, but all of them except one, notwithstanding their disguise, were captured by the English."

"Owing to the bad luck of the Gleaner [described in a preceding page] no privateer was fitted out the second year of the war, but many citizens of the town [and Kennebunk] joined those of other ports, some of whom were fortunate and others were lost."

"A new privateer brig, the McDonough, Captain Weeks, with seventy men, was fitted out, but she fared no better than the Gleaner. She was captured the second day out by the Bacchante frigate and her crew carried to Halifax and afterwards to England and were imprisoned in Dartmoor till the end of the war. Two of her crew, Capt. John Stone and Jesse March, died in prison."

"Two other fast-sailing privateers were built, the Ludlow and Lawrence. The former, commanded by Captain Mudge, was fitted out in the winter and on going to sea sprung a leak and put into Havana, where she was detained in making repairs till peace was proclaimed. [The Ludlow returned to the Port, where she was sold at auction, April 19, 1815. She was two hundred and eight tons burden and a remarkably fast sailer.] The Lawrence had not sailed when the Treaty of Peace was signed. She was sold to a merchant in Boston."

News of the Treaty of Peace between this Country and Great Britain, which was signed December 24, 1814, was received in Boston by express, thirty-two hours from New York, about eight A. M. on the morning of February 13, 1815, and reached this town the next forenoon. (The cost of the express from New York to Boston was two hundred and twenty-five dollars.) The *Visiter* says: "Immediately on the receipt of the gratifying news of peace the in-

habitants of Kennebunk and Arundel assembled in the village, as it were by instinct, the bell rang, the cannon roared, flags were displayed and hurrahs rent the welkin. In the evening Washington Hall and several other buildings were illuminated. The event was subsequently celebrated by a 'Grand Peace Ball.'"

"THE HORSE MARINE."

During the war the more costly piece goods that were kept in country stores found few or no purchasers among their regular customers, but there was a moderate demand for them in Boston and other large towns. Of course no goods of this description could be imported and thus it came about that the country storekeepers packed up all goods of this kind that were on their shelves and sent them to places where there was a market for them. The usual method of transporting merchandise from port to port by coasters was not then practicable, inasmuch as the enemy's cruisers were constantly in our immediate vicinity with the object of capturing our vessels, irrespective of their burden or employment. It was found necessary, therefore, to transport commodities of almost every description to and from different places in wagons drawn by horses or oxen, chiefly the former.

The prices of all merchandise of foreign manufacture or growth were exceedingly high and the temptation to smuggle them into the country was consequently very great. Custom house officers were numerous and vigilant everywhere, but in no section of the Union, probably, were they more plentiful than in Maine,—a border State with an extensive seacoast, affording countless harbors and nooks and corners where goods could be clandestinely landed, which caused it to be a suspected locality. Doubtless a great many smuggled goods were carried through the district in these wagons destined for Boston and elsewhere and were generally safely delivered. Government officers felt bound to overhaul all teams laden with packages in whatever form they were made up. These officers were exceedingly unpopular and as the wagoner, whether his load was composed of smuggled commodities or otherwise, would resist a search to the utmost of his ability, skirmishes frequently took place between the officers and the person suspected, but the latter always found friends and assistants near at hand. Abuse and rough handling of the official was winked at or applauded, and a joke upon him, whether rough or quiet, was remarkably well relished. With this explanation the following extracts from the *Visiter* will be understood readily



and will, we think, be found both interesting and amusing. Under the facetious title of "Horse Marine List" the editor of the *Visiter* notes the arrival and departure of those barges operated by horse power. In the issue of October 9, 1813, he says:—

"Departed from this place, 7th inst., the fast sailing wagon, Rattler, Lt. Jefferds, for Boston, with dry goods, etc. Also Chebacco boat, Skipper Daniels, for Boston, with hogshead shooks."

In subsequent numbers of the paper we find the following:—

"October 13. Arrived, the Rattler, Lt. Jefferds, cargo, wine, etc."

"Passed this port since our last about twenty sail of horse and ox wagons from Bath and Portland bound to Boston with dry goods."

"Arrived November 6, at noon, two horse cutters, 'Timothy Pickering' and 'Quincy Cannon Ball,' Commodore Delande, from Portland for Boston. Spoke on passage sixteen ox schooners from Bath for Boston, cargo, tin plate; all well. Also saw on Scarborough turnpike a suspicious looking cutter, which we escaped by superior sailing."

"On Friday last a fleet of wagons touched at this place for a supply of whiskey. They were from Boston for Portland and Hallowell, Commodore Libbey, cargoes, tobacco and English goods. On Saturday the road was quite clear of craft, only one three-horse cutter passed, the master of which furnished us with the following extracts from his log-book: 'Saturday, nine A. M., Saco woods bearing four miles distant, spoke an armed cutter which informed that he had been chased by a swarthy-looking cutter which answered the description of the government commissioner cutter Jefferson's Favorite, which ran alongside and attempted to board, but our informant opened a galling fire from his breast guns that soon repulsed his assailant. The government cutter having obtained reinforcements again ran alongside and attempted to grapple, but a few well-directed shot from us compelled her to sheer off, she being much injured in her upper works, with blood in her scuppers; the victory was probably gained by our knocking in the captain's dead lights at the second broadside. At half-past ten was again boarded by the Jefferson's Favorite and overhauled, but not strictly, the boarding officer complaining of bad eyesight; was permitted to proceed with the loss of a small canteen, the contents of which, on tasting, he declared to be Jamaica and therefore liable to confiscation. At one came to for refreshments, at two made sail, at three was chased by a suspicious-looking cutter, which was stopped by the toll man for arrearages, when we made our escape.'"

These extracts are sufficient to convey a good idea of the incidents that frequently occurred on the road from 1812 to 1815 and of the *modus operandi* by which the wagoners evaded or "met and conquered" the government officials who were constantly on their track.

War time was not entirely a season of dejection and idleness. There were many seamen who had been thrown out of employment and many shopkeepers and mechanics who could close their places of business without the risk of annoying customers by temporary absence, and these very frequently formed small parties, in their season, for berrying, gunning, playing games of cricket, baseball, quoits, ten-pins, etc. The bowling-alley was in a small grove of pines, a short distance northerly from the dwelling-house of the late Mrs. Simon Kimball, access to which was through a lane leading from the then main road to fields and pastures lying in that direction. This was afterward removed to "Remich's Woods," where it remained for several years until destroyed, in May, 1826, during a short but destructive tornado, by the falling of trees which afforded it shade. The bowling-alley was not rebuilt, and we believe there has not been one in the village since that time, if we except one that was put up in a little shed which stood in the rear of the lot on which the Second Parish Church now stands. This, however, was of short duration, the shed, and of course with it the alley, having been torn down within two years after the latter had been built. Boating and fishing were the leading amusements during the summer. There were several small boats on the Mousam, some of which were moored at "Kelley's Landing," others at "Wise's Dock," both near the old-time "Larrabee Village" and both now unfrequented, but much the larger number were moored at the "Creek," where now not more than two or three can at any time be found. When an extra-sized party was to be provided for, one or more gondolas were brought into service and taken in tow by small boats. There were as many as four large gondolas on the river, capacious and rough, three of which, we are told, were moored at the several boat landings above named and one in a creek farther down. These were probably built before shipbuilding on the Mousam had ceased to be one of the industries of the town; they could then be profitably employed, but at the time concerning which we are writing they were chiefly used for bringing up to their respective landing places kelp and rockweed from the beaches, also soil and muck from the flats and marshes, which were carted to points where they could be advantageously utilized. These gondolas were broken up long

since; no river craft of this description can now be seen within the banks of the stream on which, in days gone by, such were so frequently found floating. At Kennebunk Landing gondolas were employed in the transportation of lumber to the Port for many years up to the time when our merchants were no longer shippers of lumber, for the reason that the interior towns could no longer furnish it of good quality in sufficient quantities to render a continuance of its shipment practicable or remunerative. Times have changed and this useful but ungainly boat is now rarely seen above the Lower Falls.

#### PRESIDENT MONROE IN KENNEBUNK.

James Monroe, during the first year of his first term as President of the United States, made a tour through the Eastern and Northern States with the purpose of inspecting in person the exposed points of our maritime and northwestern frontiers, the condition of the defenses of our harbors, etc. He was everywhere received with all possible attention, and in every section of the country visited during the tour party feeling was banished; Federalists and Republicans zealously united in tendering to him a hearty welcome. He left Washington on Saturday, the thirty-first day of May, 1817, and visited all the cities and many of the towns on the route to Boston, where he arrived on the second of July. He remained there until the fifth, on which day he continued his journey, taking the lower road (through Salem, etc.), and reached Portsmouth on the afternoon of the twelfth (Saturday). Here he tarried until the morning of the following Tuesday, when he resumed his journey.

He crossed the Piscataqua on a ferryboat—the bridge from Portsmouth to Kittery was built at a later day—and stood on the soil of Maine, at Kittery, at an early hour. Here he was welcomed by many of the inhabitants of that town and of the neighboring towns, who had assembled to receive him. Proceeding thence, escorted by a large company of cavalry of “General Leighton’s (Maine) Brigade,” he was met at York by a committee of the town, at the head of which was the venerable Judge Sewall, commissioned by the “father of his country,” in 1789, as judge of the District Court of Maine, who made an extemporaneous address to the President, in which he adverted to the first settlement of York, under the auspices of Ferdinando Gorges, and to other particulars relating to the early history of that ancient town. The President was greatly interested in the address and responded with much feeling. He breakfasted with Judge Sewall.



Leaving York with the same escort that attended him from Kittery, the President was met about five miles west of Kennebunk Village by the committee of arrangements and many other citizens of that town. A momentary halt was made by the Presidential party, during which the chairman was introduced to the distinguished visitor and other formalities observed. The party then moved forward under the continued escort of the York Cavalry, now joined by the Kennebunk Cavalry, with full ranks, commanded by Elisha Chadbourne; then followed the committee of arrangements, the brigade and division officers and a numerous cavalcade of the citizens of both parishes in Wells and of Arundel, on horseback and in carriages. His proximity to the village was made known by the discharge of cannon and the ringing of the bell. Both sides of the street, west of Tavern Hill, and the avenue leading to the door in Jefferds's Hotel, where the carriage was to stop, were lined with a large concourse of people, and when near noon he alighted and was about to enter the hotel his welcome was proclaimed by loud and repeated cheers. Shortly afterward George W. Wallingford, chairman of the committee of arrangements, made an address to the President, appropriate and eloquent, to which he replied at considerable length. The President then, by special invitation, proceeded to the dwelling-house of Joseph Storer, where he partook of a lunch prepared by Mrs. Storer with great taste and elegance. A few minutes later he repaired on foot to his carriage, which by previous arrangement had been sent forward a short distance beyond the meeting-house, on the Portland road. Both sides of the street through which he passed were crowded with ladies, gentlemen and children, to whose salutations he bowed his acknowledgments. On reaching and entering his carriage he was again greeted with the prolonged cheers of the multitude. The village bridge over the Mousam and the street thence to the meeting-house were beautifully decorated with flags, arches of evergreen and flowers, appropriate mottoes, etc. The display was very creditable to the citizens. The *Visiter* of July 14, 1817, contained a full account of the day's proceedings, including Mr. Wallingford's address entire and a comprehensive summary of the President's remarks in reply. The rapid rate at which he traveled limited his stay in the village to not much exceeding an hour.

The President wore what was termed the undress uniform of a Revolutionary officer, viz.: a blue military coat of home-made cloth, light-colored breeches and a cocked hat.

The President undoubtedly made a short stop in Saco while on his way to Portland, although we have not been able to find any account of his reception there. He tarried in Portland from Tuesday evening until Thursday morning, at which time he left that place on his return. He breakfasted with Judge Thatcher, at Biddeford, and passed through Kennebunk at eleven A. M. on his way to Dover, N. H. He reached Washington on the seventeenth of September, having been absent one hundred and twenty days.

President Monroe made a tour through the Southern States in 1819. He left the seat of government on the fifth of April, traveled along the seaboard as far as Savannah, Ga., and returned to the Capital early in July.

#### THE KENNEBUNK CAVALRY COMPANY.

A company of cavalry, composed of citizens of Kennebunk, Wells and Kennebunkport, was organized between the years 1790 and 1795, under an act of incorporation granted by the Massachusetts Legislature. Its average membership was sixty. The uniform adopted by the company was very becoming—dress of red cloth, sword and pistols, with appropriate hat or cap. The horses on which they rode were also tastefully caparisoned. This company made a fine appearance on parade and especially when marching. The parade for roll-call and exercise, as well as for dismissal of the troop when marches and other exercises of the day had been performed, was at the roadside near and west of the First Parish Church, which was also the parade of other military companies whose headquarters were in the village.

From time to time several of the original members removed to other towns and the remainder were exempted, by age, from the performance of military duty. For a while the places made vacant by retiring members were readily supplied; after 1817, however, the muster roll gradually diminished until about 1822 this company virtually disbanded. John Burnham, of Lower Alewife, was the last clerk of the organization. The author, a few years ago, inquired of Mr. Burnham whether the earlier records of the company could now be found. He thought they had not been properly cared for by his predecessors; doubtless they had been destroyed, or if found at all, sadly mutilated. Among the reasons given by him for the rapid decline in its numbers were the facts that the equipage was somewhat costly and that it required a pretty good horseback rider to make a respectable appearance on parade or on the march; there-

fore very few applications were made for membership, as not many could be found who were willing to incur the expense or who possessed the required accomplishment.

Mr. Burnham also stated that on a certain May training day the captain, a private and himself were all that appeared. When the stated day for the next meeting for parade and drill came along he thought it his duty, as clerk, to be present at the appointed time and place, and so, in full regimentals and with his muster roll, he appeared promptly on parade. At the specified hour he was there, but alone. He waited until three P. M., when he called the roll, but without a response, and then and there was the finale of the Kennebunk Cavalry Company.

#### THE ARTILLERY COMPANY.

A number of young men belonging to Kennebunk and Arundel petitioned the governor and council (of Massachusetts) for the formation of an artillery company, to be composed of individuals residing in those towns. The petition was granted, and a meeting of the petitioners was held at Washington Hall on the twenty-second day of August, 1817, for the choice of officers, which resulted in the election of Barnabas Palmer, Captain; William W. Wise, First Lieutenant; Edward E. Bourne, Second Lieutenant; Davenport Tucker, Clerk, and other minor officers. Its title was "The Wells and Arundel Artillery Company." The uniform of its members was showy and becoming. The company made a fine appearance when on parade, affording evidence that they were thoroughly disciplined and that they were untiring in their efforts to render their organization "a valuable addition to the brigade." An elegant standard, donated by ladies of the village, was presented to the company in August, 1818, by Miss Sarah Grant, who sent it to the commanding officer, accompanied by a note which was exceedingly appropriate, as was the answer of Captain Palmer in behalf of the company. Joseph G. Moody was appointed Surgeon of the battalion of artillery in the first brigade. In 1819 Mr. Palmer, having been appointed Major of the battalion, first brigade of sixth division, resigned his position of Captain and Lieutenant Wise was chosen to fill the vacancy; Ensign Clement Jefferds was chosen Lieutenant, and James Osborn, Ensign.

Two brass fieldpieces, carrying balls of six pounds in weight, were furnished to this company by the State, which, years later, after the company had disbanded, were transferred to the Limerick Artillery.



Thomas Dighton, aged twenty-one years, died April 23, 1819. His remains were interred with military honors by the artillery company, of which he was a member.

The company, in full uniform, visited Kennebunkport Village September 22, 1828. A card was published in the *Gazette* by the officers and privates, tendering their grateful acknowledgments to the citizens of that village "for the very flattering reception given them on the 22d inst. by the decoration of the shipping in port, the salute of cannon and the very handsome collation which was provided for their refreshment."

When the militia laws of Maine had been revised, and company trainings and general musters were no longer required, the interest in this excellent company began to decline and in a short space of time thereafter it was disbanded. There was not a sufficient amount of military spirit among the young men of this town to continue the organization under the provisions of the law respecting independent companies.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### "COCHRANISM."

One of those fanatical delusions which have by far too often disturbed the peace of communities—have existed only in after time to be deplored—and under the guise of religion have desecrated the name its followers dared to assume obtained a footing in this town in the autumn of 1817. It was known outside the ranks of its devotees as Cochranism. One Jacob Cochrane, who started on his career from Fryeburg, Maine, about 1815, succeeded in creating a wonderful excitement and in gaining great numbers of proselytes in several towns in Oxford, Cumberland and York Counties during the years 1816, 1817 and 1818. He pretended that he was a divinely-commissioned teacher. So far as we can learn he proposed no new articles of religious faith and did not observe the ordinances of baptism or the Lord's Supper. His educational acquirements were quite limited and he was no more, certainly, than an ordinary public speaker. He was about thirty-five years of age when he commenced his ministry, in person tall and robust, with a pleasant countenance, although indicating more of sensuality than of intellectuality; his voice was harsh; his demeanor, although not boorish, did not indicate mental culture or refinement of manners. He had lived several years in Fryeburg, where he kept a small stock of goods, chiefly groceries, and was very fairly patronized. He was considered, by those who dealt with him, as a "clever fellow," but rather indolent; his moral character, in the estimation of his neighbors, was good.

A trifling incident led to an entire change in the views and prospects of the subject of our story: One dull afternoon three of his associates were in the store and, during an interchange of small talk, one of them perpetrated a joke on Cochrane which occasioned a laugh at his expense. Standing directly opposite the joker, Cochrane deliberately but good-naturedly said: "If you repeat that I will tell something about you that will make you repent it," with each word raising and lowering his right hand, which was quite near the person addressed, who, when the sentence was completed, was evidently in a somnolent state. The occurrence was attributed

to sleepiness, and nothing more was thought about it at the time. A fortnight later the three friends met at the store, when the incident at the former meeting was referred to, and it was proposed to try the operation again. This was done and repeated several times, by the same persons and with a like result. These experiments excited considerably more attention than had the former one, on the part of both actors and witnesses. Still again, after an interval of a few days, the friends were together. The experiment was again tried; each of the friends was "put to sleep" by Cochrane, but neither of them could succeed in effecting upon each other or upon Cochrane a like condition.

Neither Cochrane nor his friends, it is safe to say, had heard of animal magnetism or mesmerism. Its mysterious and as yet unexplained influence was discovered by Mesmer in 1775, forty years before the incident in Cochrane's store. If he had been acquainted with the facts then established in relation to this phenomenon, he could not have obtained the idea that it must be regarded as a divine call for him to preach and he would, probably, have confined the exhibitions of his "gift" to its occasional employment for the edification of his friends and others. We may suppose that his store would not have been relinquished; that the baser passions of his nature would not have been aroused by the peculiar temptations to which his peculiar position exposed him; that he would have lived quietly, contented with his business and with the gain derived from it.

If the public had been enlightened on the subject, the trance state into which persons were thrown would have been considered curious and unexplainable, but there never would have been a suspicion that the power exercised entitled the manipulator to claim that he was a divinely-commissioned teacher; none except the willfully ignorant would for a moment have harbored the idea that it was a supernatural operation. While admitting that it was wonderful, they would have seen that it was more nearly allied to earth than heaven, and that it might be perverted to baneful uses; that it needed watchful care rather than blindfold admission. If the phenomenon had been justly estimated, there would have been saved the incalculable amount of vice, wretchedness and degradation occasioned by the delusion of Cochranism.

Cochrane was impressed with the belief that he had been endowed with supernatural power and that it could not be otherwise interpreted than as a "call" to preach, while his friends were satisfied he possessed an extraordinary gift. He went to his boarding-



house that afternoon nervous and thoughtful; in his mind there existed not a doubt that he had been called to preach. He distrusted his ability for the work, but he trusted that He who gave the "call" would furnish the talent and strength that should enable him to fulfill the obligation imposed on him. Noticing his abstracted manner, his landlady<sup>1</sup>—from whom, many years ago, the author derived these facts respecting his life in Fryeburg—inquired the cause. He told the story of his repeated exercise of the marvelous power with which he had been endowed, of the inference he drew because this gift had been bestowed on him, of his mental struggles, of his determination to leave his business and become a minister of the everlasting gospel. In all these views and in their conclusion drawn his wife heartily concurred. The resolution thus formed and seconded was soon carried into effect. Cochrane became a preacher. His prayers and exhortations were pronounced commonplace and unedifying, but the people were awestruck when they witnessed the trance state into which persons were thrown and listened to the amazing narrations by these persons, when they were restored to consciousness, of words they had heard and of sights they had seen. In the places visited by him, those of discriminating judgment were persuaded that these manifestations could not be of divine origin, but "were of the earth, earthy"; still they freely confessed that they were unable satisfactorily to account for them. Others, and their number was not small, accepted at once and fully the idea that they were attestations from Heaven of the divinity of his mission.

Cochrane soon gained a prominence and fame which at the outset he had neither sought nor expected. The superstitious notion that led him to become a religious teacher had no basis of sound morality, no affinity with pure Christian faith. Surrounded and fawned upon, as he was, by females of all ages, it was easy for him to cast aside the modicum of spirituality that had influenced his action—if, indeed, he had ever been moved by such an influence—and to yield to the "lusts of the flesh," to devote his unexplainable gift to the basest purposes, to become an impostor and a scourge. There were among his followers pure-minded, truly-excellent men and women, who would not participate in the unhallowed practices of their leader. Some of these had sufficient intelligence and firmness to enable them to abandon the cause altogether. Others, weak-minded, credulous and superstitious, disapproved and lamented

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Johannah Hubbard, wife of Samuel Hubbard, who moved from Fryeburg to this town in 1816.

the gross corruption of their chief, but could not subdue the feeling that such power as had been imparted to him must be from above; completely dazed, they were ashamed to defend or openly acknowledge fealty to the impostor, while they dared not range themselves in a line with the disbelievers and opponents.

The leading feature at Cochrane's meetings was the trance state into which some of the disciples would fall during the progress of the services, followed, when the subjects were restored to consciousness, by relations of the visions they had seen and of the conversations they had held with the spirits of the departed. The usual "order of exercises" was prayer, singing, reading of the Scriptures (this, we are informed, was frequently omitted), a brief exhortation by Cochrane and quite often exhortations by one or more of the brethren, then trances, then, in due time, the recitals of the wonderful things that had been seen and heard by those who had awakened from the trance state, intermingled with shouts by the brothers and sisters of "Glory to God," "Glory to God in the highest," groans, clapping of hands and jumping. One sister, at one of these meetings, shouted "Glory to God in the highest" one hundred and five times in quick succession, jumping clear from the floor each time. During this operation, from all quarters of the room, would be heard, in different tones, "Glory," "Amen," "Glory to God," "My soul's a witness to God's salvation," "Amen," "Glory." Mingled with all this would be the singing of "O how it makes me stare to see professors curl their hair," and similar strains of warning, adjuration and threatening. Quite often, in the midst of this hubbub, a parent, a brother or sister, would go through the crowd with a child in the trance state, feigned or otherwise, in his or her arms, and repeating, in solemn tone, "Behold the power of God," "Behold the works of the Lord." When it is considered that there was no pulpit, no singers' seats, but that the chief and his disciples mingled with the sinners and scoffers on the floor, it may readily be imagined that confused scenes were exhibited at these meetings, calculated to frighten the timid, to rouse the excitable to the wildest action, and to convert a religious meeting, falsely so-called, into a chaotic medley of shouts and groans, of jumping and clapping, of undevout, aimless and unmeaning demonstrations.

The *Newburyport Herald* (May or June, 1819) says: "We have seen a pamphlet, published by a Baptist minister of regular standing in New Gloucester [Maine], giving an account of Cochrane and his deluded followers. It appears that under the guise of reli-

gion they have committed the most indecent and abominable acts of adultery. . . . One of their leading tenets was to dissolve the ties of matrimony as suited their convenience, and a promiscuous sexual intercourse was tolerated by each male, being allowed to take *seven wives*! It seems Cochrane, the high priest of iniquity, had had nearly half his female followers for wives in the course of his ministration, which has been two years standing."

The principal places of resort of the disciples of Cochrane, so far as we can learn, were New Gloucester, Buxton, Saco and Kennebunk. At the last-named place meetings were frequently held in Washington Hall, and there were in the village three private dwelling-houses in some one of which a meeting was held every evening when the hall was not occupied for that purpose. In the largest and best of the three from ten to twenty of the brothers and sisters were accustomed to take up their abode from two to four weeks at a time, perhaps quarterly. None of the families occupying these houses were united in the support of the pretensions of the chief, but in each those in favor of him somehow gained the ascendancy and opened their doors to him and his followers. Those who were first to embrace his cause had always shown a crankness in regard to religious views. With them regularly-ordained ministers were hirelings, members of regularly-organized societies were "starched-up hypocrites," regular services were cold and valueless; a method of worship was preferred by which the feelings were excited, where there was "freedom of speech" and action, where ejaculations and groans were evidences of faith and the reliance for salvation, and yet these erratic persons, whose notions were so entirely irreconcilable with the teachings and requirements of the Great Master, were in the main kind-hearted and estimable neighbors and good citizens.

Meetings were also held within the Landing precinct and at the Lower Village, in each of which the converts far outnumbered those in the village. It would be useless, we suppose, to allege that all the converts in our town were free from the charge of unchaste and other improper conduct, — the traditions relating to that time would not warrant such a declaration, — but we do believe that, as a whole, they were undeserving the sweeping charges made in the foregoing extract, although we fear there was good ground in some other places for giving them full credence. When the abominations exhibited in the home life of many of the members of this "new sect" became so atrocious that it was criminal even for well-disposed citizens longer to permit them to go unchecked, the better class of



those who had been his supporters forsook him; especially was it so, we are told, in this town. A few, and but a few, defended him with the senseless remark that "he was a man of God, persecuted for righteousness sake."

Numberless anecdotes were told of Cochrane and his male and female followers for many years after the "craze" had accomplished its destructive work and passed away. It would not be well to repeat them here. One of them, however, is so odorous of disappointment and crustiness that we are tempted to put it on record. Cochrane had attempted to raise a deceased brother to life. A disbeliever, shortly afterward, while passing a disciple said to him: "Your prophet couldn't raise old man —— to life." "No wonder at all," retorted the disciple; "he was always an ugly, obstinate cuss, while living, and he had not been dead long enough for his devilish obstinacy to ooze out of him."

The time came when it was believed by the lovers of good order that these flagrant offenses against the best interests of society should be met by the fiat, "No farther." In February, 1819, Cochrane was brought before Justice Granger, of Saco, on a complaint of gross lewdness, lascivious behavior and adultery, filed against him by Mr. Ichabod Jordan. On examination, the allegations of the complainant were so well sustained by the evidence produced that the Justice ordered the accused to recognize in the sum of eighteen hundred dollars for his appearance before the Supreme Judicial Court, at York, on the third Tuesday in May following. This he did.

At the commencement of the May term of the Supreme Judicial Court the grand jury found a bill against Cochrane and "he was arraigned on the third day of the term on five several indictments for adultery and open and gross lewdness," to each of which he pleaded "not guilty." On the trial for the offenses charged in the second bill of indictment the jury brought in a verdict of "guilty." It was found that the prisoner was not in court when the jury rendered its verdict, and farther inquiries disclosed the fact that he had absconded. The court then ordered his sureties to be defaulted on their recognizances.

Judge Putnam presided during this term of the court. Daniel Davis, solicitor general, was counsel for the Commonwealth, and John Holmes, of Alfred, and George W. Wallingford, of Kennebunk, appeared as counsel for the defendant. The trial was reported by Gamaliel E. Smith, of Newfield.

The particulars respecting Cochrane's disappearance and subsequent apprehension we are unable to furnish. We learn from the court records that at the November (1819) term of the Supreme Judicial Court "the said Cochrane is brought into court and set to the bar" and sentenced,—on the first count, to solitary imprisonment for the term of five days and that afterward he be confined to hard labor for eighteen months; on the second count a like sentence is imposed; on the third count, three days solitary confinement and one year hard labor; sentence to be executed at the state prison in Charlestown, Mass. Warrant for removal to the prison issued November 3, 1819.

It appeared from the testimony of witnesses examined at the trial that the members of Cochrane's society were required to sign an agreement, in substance as follows: "The Society of Free Brethren and Sisters, knowing it a duty, as Christians, to keep the secrets of the Lord, for the secrets of the Lord are with them that love him, therefore I do voluntarily covenant with Jacob Cochrane, Aaron McKenney and Joseph Bryant to keep the secrets of the society, and if I do disclose any of the secrets of the society, or of the members thereof, that my name may be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life."

Cochrane with his adherents did not celebrate the "Lord's Supper," but in place of this introduced a service which he called "the Passover." We cannot furnish any description of this service; that there was a "feast" connected with it, it is safe to assume, but how often or with what ceremonies it was observed we are unable to state. Efforts to obtain reliable information respecting it have been entirely unsuccessful.

The last time Cochrane was seen in Kennebunk was within a few months after the expiration of the term for which he had been sentenced to prison—1824. He called upon Mr. James K. Remich and at once explained the object of his visit. He proposed to write his autobiography, but could not do so without copying largely from his trial, which Mr. Remich published and of which he held the copyright; he wished him to publish the autobiography and allow free use of the trial. After an hour's conversation on the subject, Mr. Remich said: "Mr. Cochrane, do you wish me to understand that you propose to make it appear that you are an innocent and persecuted man and have been convicted and punished on false testimony?" The answer was: "Yes, sir." "Then," said Mr. Remich, "you must seek a printer elsewhere; I cannot be instru-

mental in giving such a book to the public. I am satisfied you were not arrested without good cause, and that the finding of the jury and your sentence were just." Mr. Cochrane simply remarked: "Then I suppose I shall be compelled to abandon my design." As he was leaving the house it was noticed that he was thinly clad to withstand the rough weather, it being a bitterly cold day in winter. Mr. Remich called him back and provided him with a substantial lunch, then harnessing his horse to a sleigh took him as far as Ogunquit, feeling that, wretched as he was, he was a fellow-creature. There he left him and retraced his path homeward, while Cochrane, with his staff, took the road to York, where he remained a few days. This visit to Kennebunk, it is believed, was his last appearance in this vicinity, but where he made his headquarters for the ten or eleven years following, or how he was employed during these years, we have no knowledge. We next hear of him in South Hadley, Mass., in 1835. The *Springfield Journal* publishes the following:

"A gentleman from South Hadley informs us that Cochrane had recently figured in that vicinity, under the assumed name of "Jacob the Prophet," pretending to be a prophet of the Most High God and claiming the power to work miracles. He succeeded there in making a number of proselytes and founding a small sect of religionists. As soon as his real name and character became known to the inhabitants, he absconded and went to Stratham, N. H., taking with him some of his deluded followers, a number of whom were young females. He returned to South Hadley not long since in female clothing. He thus escaped recognition and the fact of his visit was not known until after he had left. It is believed that he now occasionally visits Hadley and holds secret meetings with his deluded followers, most of whom are females."

A Stratham correspondent of the *Portsmouth* (N. H.) *Gazette* of September 2, 1835, states that Cochrane is in that town and that "he assumes various names and disguises and endeavors to palm himself upon the good people of some of the country towns of Massachusetts and New Hampshire as a prophet and religious teacher. He has by the aid of some of his deluded followers succeeded in establishing a Convent in the town of Stratham, which is occupied by some of his disciples of both sexes, victims of his disgusting sentiments. The citizens are determined to abolish this temple of iniquity unless it is removed. The peace of the town is disturbed by the howlings and yellings of these infatuated wretches. The citizens will no longer tolerate such shameful transactions, and



efforts are making to rout them, 'peaceably if they can, forcibly if they must.'"

One Joseph Smith—a "new light preacher," in the language of the time—came to this town a few years before the advent of Cochrane. He did not have a large number of followers, and it is believed that his field of operations embraced only this and one or two of the neighboring towns. He was a harmless man, producing only a small amount of excitement and doing very little if any harm, although he at one time endeavored to overturn the meeting-house and thus signalize his ministry. At the time appointed for the performance of this feat a number of Smith's adherents, as well as of curious skeptics, were present. There was prayer, singing, another prayer, then the inserting of hands under the sill of the eastern side of the building and then a long and strong lift, but the old church was stubborn. After two or three trials, Doctor Fisher, who was among the spectators, suggested to "Brother Smith" that the northern end would afford better facilities for obtaining "a good hold," with the additional advantage that when this end had been raised a few feet the tall steeple at the other end would be moved and would draw the building over quickly and with a grand crash worthy the occasion. At this suggestion the unbelievers joined in a hearty laugh, the faithful scowled indignantly, and Brother Smith, thoroughly disgusted, relinquished the undertaking. All left the ground quietly, but probably in different moods.

An old citizen once rehearsed to the author an "exhortation" by a brother at a Smithite meeting, which was held in an outskirt of the village: "I see lots of folks down here from Mousam, with their white chokers [neckerchiefs] on, walking about, grinning, *ah* [Amen!]. I suppose they think they are some great things, *ah* [Amen! Amen!], but if the truth was known I guess it would be found that they are no better than the rest on us, *ah* [Amen! Glory!]."

Nearly all the disciples of Smith afterward ranged themselves under the leadership of Cochrane. We have been told, but whether correctly or incorrectly we cannot say, that Joseph was related to the celebrated and eccentric Elias. We should judge that he was, at least so far as his talents would permit, an imitator of that at one time popular preacher.

Whenever one of these fanatical excitements was in operation the "old church" was the first to receive the maledictions of overzealous devotees; it was the giant that obstructed the way to the "new Jerusalem," the monument of ungodliness that must be over-

thrown. It is really wonderful that this tomfoolery should have been repeated again and again. When Cochranism was at its height a member of Mr. Fletcher's church said to that gentleman: "Why do you not denounce these outrageous proceedings from the pulpit?" "Let them alone," was the answer. "If these things are of God they will prosper, if of man they will perish. Let them alone." This policy has always proved to be judicious, has always assured harmony in the parish; but it was annoying to the assailants, inasmuch as it deprived them of all opportunity to raise the cry of persecution and thus temporarily to magnify their own importance.

During the first half of 1800, while the sparseness of population and the limited means of the majority prevented the erection of houses of worship equal to the wants of persons of different religious views within our territory, those of the inhabitants whose ideas respecting doctrines and modes of worship were not in accord with the "old denominations," but who were, nevertheless, lovers of orderly and intelligent public services, from time to time formed temporary societies or associations and held meetings in halls or private dwellings; they preferred "another way," but never, by word or act, denied to others the courtesies, rights and privileges which they claimed for themselves. We have good reason to believe that no purer or more acceptable worship ever ascended from earth to heaven than that which proceeded from many of these gatherings. The large-hearted and pious Buzzell and many other worthy teachers whose names we cannot now recall, but who by precept and example honored the cause in which they were engaged, did much to arouse their hearers to sober thoughts and to influence them to lead better lives. Times have changed! These then itinerant dissenters, rational in their views and earnest in their advocacy of them, represented new and feeble societies of dissenters which have now attained to denominations that rank with the largest, most respectable and influential of our religious organizations.

Open-air meetings were occasionally held, for many years, in the beautiful grove of pines that once stood midway between the village and Boothby's Beach. The devotions here, as a whole, were honest and helpful. Men, who themselves lived good lives, besought the wayward and thoughtless to go up higher in the scale of practical holiness; presented to their hearers the apostolic and self-evident injunction that he "who hath not the spirit of Christ is none of his"; enjoined upon them the important truth that "faith without works

is dead," and that professions of faith alone could not produce that serenity of mind enjoyed by the true Christian or insure the hoped-for inheritance in the life to come unless supplemented by a daily walk in accordance with the teachings of the Great Exemplar as portrayed in the matchless Sermon on the Mount. Such utterances, by men whose lives exemplified their words of counsel, were not without salutary results.

A man named Hull Barton was quite a conspicuous personage in this and the neighboring towns, in 1828, as a preacher and reformer. The small number of Cochrane's disciples in these towns who remained open defenders of their former leader became his supporters and co-workers. They adopted many of Cochrane's methods of proselytism, but, we think, were not chargeable with his gross immoralities. Unlike his predecessor, he made considerable pretension to literary acquirements and was a prolific writer on the subjects that engrossed his attention. As it was difficult for him to obtain admission of his articles in the columns of the newspapers of the time, he gave no small quantity of his effusions to the public through the medium of small pamphlets of which he was both author and publisher. A most ridiculous farce was enacted on the fourth of February, 1828, when three persons, styled "ordaining elders," ordained Barton as pastor over the society of believers that had been gathered by Cochrane. We presume the exercises were brief and unique. It is said Barton baptized some twenty or thirty persons, chiefly young girls, a part of them without the knowledge or consent of their parents, who lived in the immediate vicinity. Of these and the time-tried disciples of Cochrane a church was instituted, to which he administered what he called the "Lord's Supper." He was in this vicinity two or three years.



PART SECOND

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HISTORY OF KENNEBUNK

1820 to 1890



## CHAPTER I.

### SEPARATION OF THE DISTRICT OF MAINE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS — DIVISION OF THE TOWN OF WELLS — INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KENNEBUNK.

Within two years after the close of the Revolutionary War the subject of the separation of the District of Maine from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the formation of the District into an independent State, began to be earnestly discussed. This proposition found many advocates, but the majority of the people were not disposed to give it much attention. The union of Maine with Massachusetts had unquestionably been of great benefit to the inhabitants of the District, and in the minds of the masses the sound maxim, "Let well enough alone," was in this instance especially deserving of consideration. There were many arguments, pertinent and forcible, that were presented in favor of as well as against the measure, but just then the agitation of the question was generally thought to be premature. Its advocates, however, were determined and persistent in their efforts. Their initial movement was the calling of a convention, at Falmouth (Portland), to take such action in reference to this matter as might be considered expedient. It was held the last of December, 1785, or in January, 1786. Although Wells was strongly opposed to separation, the town voted to accept the invitation, "per letter," to send a delegate to Falmouth, and at a meeting held December 5, 1785, elected John Storer to represent them in said convention. Beyond an interchange of views on the subject which they had met to consider, nothing was done by the delegates except to recommend that another meeting be held at Portland on the last Wednesday in January, 1787. Wells resolved not to take part in this meeting and voted, October 2, 1786, not to send a delegate thereto, and also voted that the town disapproves, "under present circumstances," of any action looking to separation, etc. This second convention met at the appointed time, but its proceedings were unimportant.

Notwithstanding the advocates of separation had thus far met with very little encouragement, they were unyielding in their efforts. In private circles and at public meetings the subject was discussed



and thus kept before the people until, in 1792, when it was believed that public sentiment had become more favorably disposed toward the project, they succeeded in obtaining the passage of a resolve by the General Court of Massachusetts requiring the inhabitants of the District of Maine, consisting of the counties of York, Cumberland, Lincoln, Hancock and Washington, to express their views, through the ballot box, respecting the separation of said District and "forming a distinct Government therein." Pursuant to this resolve, the inhabitants of Wells, on the first Monday in May, 1792, "after a discussion of the question," proceeded to ballot, with this result: six in favor of it and one hundred and twenty-four against it. The aggregated votes of the District proved that the majority was opposed to separation. Two years later, in 1794, the towns in the District were again solicited to choose delegates to a convention appointed to be held in Portland, on the second Tuesday of October in that year, to consider the question of separation. Again it was found that the advocates of division had overestimated their strength and a third convention met and adjourned without any favorable result. In reference to this last call the Wells records say: "The question being put whether the town would send a delegate, . . . it passed in the negative." Still the workers for division labored with unabated zeal to this end. It was made the theme of conversation in the tavern, the store, around the courthouse, at town meetings, everywhere, and not without indications that their cause was really gaining strength. Another appeal was made to the people in 1797. On the tenth of May in that year the several towns in the District voted on this question: "Shall application be made to the Legislature for their consent to a separation of the District of Maine from the residue of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that the same may be erected into a separate State?" On this question, in Wells, there were fifteen yeas and one hundred and fifteen nays. For the ensuing nine years the friends of division confined their efforts to discussions of the subject. On the first Monday in April, 1807, the several towns in the District voted on the following question: "Shall the senators and representatives of the District of Maine make application to the Legislature for their consent to a separation of Maine from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that the same may be erected into a State?" A majority of the votes in the District were against the proposition. In Wells the vote stood: Yeas, eight; nays, three hundred and twenty.

Failing to impress the majority with the idea that separation

would largely contribute to the prosperity of the whole District, and finding, also, that many of those who admitted that this measure was desirable were not at all enthusiastic in its support, wearied with the various methods that had been resorted to, without any appreciable advancement of the cause they were designed to promote, the advocates of division — 1815-1816 — determined again to bring the matter before the Massachusetts Legislature and in a form that would be more effective than the means they had been pursuing. Petitions were presented at the commencement of the session, January, 1816, which were referred to a committee, with instructions to ascertain the extent of the applications for separation. This committee made a report by which it appeared that forty-nine towns, with a population of fifty thousand two hundred and sixty-four, had petitioned, and that there had been petitions of individuals from forty-three other towns, the petitioners numbering two thousand nine hundred and thirty-six. The population of Maine in two hundred and ten towns, excluding plantations, was stated to be two hundred and twenty-eight thousand seven hundred and five, and it was estimated that the applicants embraced about one-fifth of the legal voters. The committee, however, recommended that consent be given to the separation on terms and conditions particularized in an accompanying "resolve concerning the separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts proper," which required the inhabitants of said District to convene in their respective towns on the twentieth day of May, 1816, and give in their written votes, yea or nay, on the question of such separation and the erection of said District into a separate State. The result of this balloting was as follows: Yeas, ten thousand five hundred and eighty-four; nays, six thousand four hundred and ninety-one. There were thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight qualified voters in the towns from which returns were received, considerably less than one-half of whom availed themselves of the privilege of expressing their views through the ballot box. Wells voted: Yeas, twenty-seven; nays, one hundred and fifty-one. In Arundel the vote stood: Yeas, twenty-seven; nays, sixty. The returns of the votes cast at these town meetings were laid before the Legislature, June 5, 1816, and were referred to a joint committee, which reported a preamble and act concerning the question, which passed both branches and was approved by the governor. By the provisions of this act the inhabitants of Maine were required to hold meetings in their respective towns on the first Monday in

September for the purpose of choosing delegates to meet in convention, at Brunswick, on the last Monday in said month, and also, at the same meeting, to vote on the question of the expediency of the separation, returns of which votes were to be made to the president of the aforesaid convention within four days after its meeting; and if it should appear that a majority of five to four, at least, of the votes so returned favored separation, then, and not otherwise, said convention shall proceed to form a constitution for said separate and independent State. Delegates were chosen throughout the State, on the first Monday in September, in accordance with the above-named act. In Wells, George W. Wallingford, Joseph Dane, Jacob Fisher, Nahum Morrill and Joseph Gilman were chosen. On the question of the expediency of separation, in Wells, the yeas were forty-seven and the nays three hundred and seventy-four; in Arundel the yeas were sixteen and the nays one hundred and thirteen. The delegates elect met in convention, at Brunswick, on the thirtieth of September and organized by the choice of William King as president and Samuel K. Whiting as secretary. King received ninety-seven votes for president and Ezekiel Whitman eighty-five. The committee to which the returns of votes had been referred reported "that the whole number of yeas is eleven thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine, the whole number of nays is ten thousand three hundred and forty-seven; that the majority of yeas of the towns and plantations in favor of separation is six thousand and thirty-one; that the majority of nays in the towns and plantations opposed to a separation is four thousand four hundred and nine; and that the majority of yeas as aforesaid is to the majority of nays as aforesaid a majority of five to four, at least, of the votes returned." This is the famous "Brunswick arithmetic." The report closed with recommending the adoption of a resolution for the appointment of a committee of five to make application to the Massachusetts Legislature for its formal consent that the District of Maine shall be an independent State; another for the appointment of a committee of fifty-two to report a constitution for the State of Maine; another for a committee to make application to Congress for the admission of Maine into the Union; another that the convention be adjourned to the third Tuesday in the following December, to meet in Brunswick. (For this adjourned meeting no necessity existed at the date named for the reassembling of the delegates.) The report and resolutions were accepted,—yeas, one hundred and three; nays, eighty-three.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>A Journal of the proceedings of the Brunswick Convention, by Gamaliel E. Smith, a member of said convention from the town of Newfield, was printed by James K. Remich, in pamphlet form, eighty pages, octavo.



The proceedings of the Brunswick Convention were received in the Massachusetts Senate at its winter session and were referred to the joint committee on separation, by which a very able report was made on the subject, concluding with the recommendation that resolves be adopted declaring "that the contingency upon which the consent of Massachusetts was to be given for separation of the District of Maine has not happened, and that the powers of the Brunswick Convention to take any measures tending to that event have ceased," and "that it is not expedient for the present General Court to adopt any further measures in regard to the separation." The report and resolves were adopted in both branches of the Legislature without debate or division. This summary disposal of the matter shows very conclusively that the method adopted by the majority of the Brunswick Convention to obtain the required five-ninths of its votes was regarded by the Legislature as unwarrantable. It seems that no member spoke in its defense and that no one wished to have his vote recorded in approval of it.

The advocates of separation, although defeated in the attempt to attain their object by a mathematical operation, were by no means disheartened or silenced; indeed, it was apparent that the cause was rapidly gaining strength and that the protracted contest would soon be brought to a close, and with a result satisfactory to those who had labored so zealously and persistently in its behalf. Massachusetts did not seriously object to the movement; many citizens who had, all along, believed the measure desirable, but who had, thus far, opposed it through the ballot box, influenced by the opinion that those who were urging it so strenuously were animated more by a desire for the honors and emoluments of office than by anxiety for the public good, and, also, by an unwillingness to be moved puppet-like as aids in carrying out the schemes of these manipulators of the affair, were getting tired of the excitement and were gradually falling into the ranks of its supporters; the District was gaining in population and the newcomers, free from all bias or prejudice, naturally favored the measure. It was conceded on all hands that the question would again, in the near future, be submitted to the people, and that then, by a very decided majority, it would be declared desirable that the connection with Massachusetts should be severed and that the District of Maine should be made an independent State.

The subject was not permitted long to remain in quietude. As soon as the two branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts had

been organized in May, 1819, petitions were presented from sixty-seven towns in the District of Maine asking for separation, which, with a few remonstrances against the measure, were referred to a joint committee. This committee, in the Senate, on the ninth day of June, made a report, accompanied with a bill relating to and providing for separation, which were taken up for consideration a few days later, when Hon. Mr. Quincy opposed the bill "in an eloquent and animated speech of nearly two hours, and it was advocated by Mr. Saltonstall in a speech of equal eloquence." The bill was then passed to be engrossed. Yeas, twenty-six; nays, eleven. When the bill came up in the House an animated discussion ensued, after which it was ordered to be engrossed. Yeas, one hundred and ninety-three; nays, fifty-nine.

It was provided by this bill that the qualified voters in the District of Maine should assemble in their respective towns on the second Monday in July and give their votes on the question: "Is it expedient that the District of Maine shall become a separate and independent State?" Returns of the votes thrown at these meetings were to be made at once to the governor and council, by whom they were to be counted. When counted the governor was required to make proclamation of the number thus returned for and against separation, and if it appeared that there was a majority of fifteen hundred in favor of the measure, "the people shall be considered to have declared their consent and agreement" to separation on the terms proposed in the bill; in this event meetings were to be held in the several towns in the District to choose delegates to meet in convention in Portland, on the second Monday in October following, for the purpose of forming a constitution of government. After the meeting of the delegates in convention and the formation of a constitution thereby, the legal voters shall, in town meetings held on a day designated by the convention, accept or reject the instrument; if accepted it was to go into operation, "according to its own provisions," on the first day of January, 1820, the convention appointing a secretary *pro tem* for the new State, and the last chosen president of the convention, after the fifteenth of March (provided application shall have been made to Congress for its assent to the admission of said State into the Union and that said assent shall have been obtained before that date) shall have all the power of governor and council until a governor shall be duly chosen and qualified.

The columns of the *Visiter* of the seventeenth of July contained several very able communications on the subject of separation, and

the indications were that the opponents to the measure, although satisfied that they were in the minority, were determined not to yield without a full discussion of the merits and demerits of the proposed action. A meeting of citizens of the towns in York County lying southwest of Saco River was held at Alfred, on the fifteenth of July, at which some strong speeches were made by prominent men in opposition to separation, and an address and several resolutions were adopted. In one of the latter the following sentences occur: "Should it prove that the deliberate wishes of a large majority of Maine are in favor of separation, we feel warranted in the opinion that of the people of this county living southwest of Saco River a very great plurality would prefer to retain their present connection with Massachusetts, and that in the event of this right being denied them their next wish would be to be annexed to the State of New Hampshire." Citizens of Parsonsfield petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature that they might be set off from the District of Maine and become citizens of New Hampshire, and the town of Wells appointed a committee to petition the Legislature of New Hampshire "that Wells may be annexed to that State should the District of Maine be formed into a new State and Massachusetts will not consent that the town of Wells may still be attached to her." We do not find that the committee performed the duty assigned them by this ridiculous vote.

All these movements could not, however, stay the march of time. On the last Monday in July the legal voters in the District were called upon to express their views, through the ballot box, on this long-debated and absorbing question. The result showed that in nearly all the towns the opposition had greatly diminished, but that "old Wells" had nailed her flag to the mast and bated not a jot or tittle of her hostility to the measure and of her determination to maintain her integrity to the last. Wells gave four hundred and eight nays and forty-nine yeas. Arundel gave one hundred and nine nays and twenty-three yeas. In the District the majority for separation was about eleven thousand.

The question of separation having now been settled affirmatively, beyond all controversy, meetings were held throughout the District, on the twenty-sixth of July, for the choice of delegates to a convention to be held in Portland, on the eleventh of October, for the purpose of framing a constitution for the new State. In Wells Joseph Thomas, George W. Wallingford, Joseph Dane, Nahum Morrill and Samuel Curtis were chosen to represent the town in



this convention. Only one delegate was elected in Arundel, Gen. Simon Nowell.

The delegates met in convention and organized on the eleventh day of October and continued in session several days. Their proceedings were harmonious and the constitution framed by them was generally acceptable to the members as well as to the people at large.

The "style and title" of the new State was the subject of considerable discussion when it came before the convention. Judge Cony proposed that it should be called "Columbus" and advocated his motion in an ingenious and sensible speech. The proposition to strike out Maine and substitute Columbus was negatived by a decisive majority. A motion to strike out "State" and substitute "Commonwealth" found more advocates, on the ground, chiefly, as expressed by one of the delegates, that it was more "sonorous and respectable"; it was lost, however, the yeas being one hundred and one and the nays one hundred and forty. It was then determined that the style and title of the new State should be the "State of Maine." The sixth day of December was appointed for the holding of meetings throughout the District whereby the voters could express, by their ballots, their approval or disapproval of the work of the convention. The constitution was approved by an overwhelming majority. Wells gave one hundred and fifty-six yeas and one nay; Arundel, fifty yeas. The vote throughout the State was very small; the whole number returned was ten thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, of which eight hundred and seventy-three were in the negative.

The District of Maine in 1819 contained, as nearly as could be estimated, three hundred and fifty-one thousand and fifty-eight inhabitants. York County, the fourth in population, contained fifty thousand two hundred and ninety. There were nine counties in the District, viz.: York, Cumberland, Lincoln, Kennebec, Oxford, Somerset, Hancock, Penobscot and Washington.

A bill for the admission of the State of Maine into the Union, from and after the fifteenth day of March, 1820, "without restriction or incumbrance," passed both Houses of Congress and received the signature of the President prior to the fourth of March, 1820.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The famous "Missouri Compromise" was connected with the admission of Maine into the Union. The *Visiter* of April twenty-second contained an address to the people of Maine, by Mark Langdon Hill, in explanation and defense of his vote in favor of the measure, and the *Visiter* of the twenty-ninth of the same month contained a similar address from John Holmes. Messrs. Holmes and Hill were the only members of Congress, in either branch, who supported the measure.

Under the provisions of the constitution of Maine William King, the president of the convention for framing that instrument, was vested with the power of governor and council from and after the fifteenth of March "until a governor shall have been elected by the people and duly qualified," and Ashur Ware (elected by the convention) was Secretary of State *pro tem*.

The first State election, for the choice of governor and members of the Legislature, was held on the third day of April. There was no organized opposition to the Republican (Democratic) nominees for governor and senators. Wells gave one hundred and sixty-eight votes for William King for governor and two scattering, and for senators, one hundred each for William Moody, of Saco, and Rufus McIntire, of Parsonsfield, and ninety-eight for Josiah W. Seaver, of South Berwick, and sixteen scattering. Joseph Moody and Nahum Morrill were chosen to represent the town in the State Legislature. Arundel gave one hundred and nine votes for King and seventy-three each for Moody, McIntire and Seaver. Simon Nowell was chosen town representative.

The first Legislature of Maine assembled at the "State House," in Portland, on the thirty-first day of May. Both branches were organized by the election of the usual officers, the Republican nominees being chosen with great unanimity. "After the ceremony of organization was completed, the two branches, attended by the governor [King], proceeded in procession to the [First Parish] meeting-house, where an appropriate prayer was offered up by Rev. Mr. Nichols."

The acrimony that existed between the advocates and opponents of separation, in Wells and throughout York County, before the settlement of the question, appears to have been succeeded, immediately afterward, by an era of good feeling. The larger part of both parties evinced an earnest desire to "bury the hatchet." The Federalists, at the first State election, not only refrained from the nomination of candidates for governor and senators, but many of them threw their ballots for the Republican nominees, and, moreover, at the organization of the two branches of the Legislature and the election of State officers by that body, gave their support to the dominant party.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, the Republican members of the Legislature extended many courtesies to the Federal members,

<sup>1</sup> During the summer session (1820) John Chandler and John Holmes (for the short term) were elected United States Senators; during the second or winter session (1821) John Holmes was re-elected for six years from the fourth of March, 1821.

and the governor and council, in the distribution of county offices, were not unmindful of the just claims of the minority. The Federalists undoubtedly pursued a wise policy in thus abstaining from everything factious and in contributing, so far as in their power, to render the organization of the new government free from obstructions and embarrassments. They were largely in the minority both in the county and State. There was a glamour about the new State and the condition of things it brought about that favorably impressed the majority of the people. These popular results had been attained through the efforts of the Republicans and, of course, their men and measures were in the ascendant, an ascendancy which they held several years.

Mr. Holmes, having been elected United States Senator, resigned his seat as representative from the York District in the sixteenth Congress, and an election to fill the vacancy thus occasioned was held on the sixth of November, 1820 (the day designated for the choice of members of the seventeenth Congress and electors of President and Vice President). Joseph Dane, of this town, was elected to fill the vacancy above named and also to represent the York District in the seventeenth Congress. There appears to have been very little interest in the election. Alexander Rice, of Kittery, the Republican nominee, was quite unpopular in several of the towns because it was suspected that he would be under the influence of New Hampshire politicians. The whole number of votes thrown in the District, exclusive of Limerick, was seventeen hundred and eighty-four. Mr. Dane's majority over Rice was three hundred and three and over all candidates one hundred and fifty-six. There was a small majority for Mr. Dane in Limerick.

Governor King, having been appointed by the President of the United States a member of the Board of Commissioners under the Spanish Treaty, resigned his office, in presence of the executive council, the twenty-seventh day of May, 1821, whereupon William D. Williamson, president of the State Senate, took the usual oaths of office and assumed the duties of governor. Governor King, on retiring, made a short address to the council. "He spoke of the difficulties with which the discharge of his duty had been attended, of the *many office seekers* who had been disappointed in their expectations and of the anxiety which had been produced by endeavoring to accomplish an equalization of office," etc.

The people constituting the Second Parish in Wells, near the close of the eighteenth century, were yearly becoming more and more



impressed with the idea that they were quite able "to go alone," and to transact their own business in their own way, and that it was not only for their interest, but it was strictly just, that the town of Wells should be divided and the Second Parish incorporated as a separate and independent town. In 1799 the subject was brought before the town, at its annual meeting in April, and the records inform us that "upon taking the sense of the town respecting a division of the same into two separate towns, there appeared a majority of votes against a separation anyway." The majority exhibited not a little craftiness as well as unfairness in voting, the same day, that "but one member be chosen to represent the town in General Court" (there had usually been two or more members elected), and then making choice of John Storer, a strong opposer of separation, "to represent the town in General Court the year ensuing." It could hardly be expected that the inhabitants of the Second Parish would submit quietly not only to a refusal to consider favorably the subject of separation, but to a deliberate act intended to deprive them of a fair representation in the General Court. They determined to bring the matter before the General Court by petition, whereupon a special town meeting was called for November fourth, 1799, at the instance of those opposed to the measure, by which it was voted to "send an agent to the General Court, at their next session, to show cause why the petition of the Second Parish in Wells respecting a separation of said parish from said town should not be granted, and that John Storer [the representative elect] be an agent for that purpose." The petition of the Second Parish was not granted by the General Court; indeed, it does not appear that any strenuous efforts were made to secure a different result. No further movement in this direction was made until the year 1814, when the town was again petitioned to give its assent to its division. In the fourteen years that had passed since the former effort to obtain a separation the Second Parish had increased in population from eight hundred to twenty-one hundred, and there had been a corresponding increase in buildings and in the various industries from which its prosperity had been derived. The First Parish had not kept pace, in these particulars, with the Second; it did not possess the natural advantages for business operations that were enjoyed by residents east of Little River. It was apparent that very few tangible reasons could now be urged against division, while there were many unanswerable arguments that could be urged in favor of the measure. Convinced that the request was both reasonable and just, the citizens of the

First Parish resolved that they would no longer oppose the wishes of their neighbors, and when the petition came before the meeting its prayer was granted and a dividing line agreed upon. The vote, however, was reconsidered, at a subsequent meeting in the same year, *by request of individuals in the Second Parish*, "in order," as the records inform us, "that the division of the town may be postponed."

This remarkable action on the part of the inhabitants of the Second Parish was influenced, it is said, by fears regarding the expense that would attend the organization of a new town at a time when sound discretion would dictate strict economy in all their expenditures. The war was paralyzing their accustomed business activity; the addition of the direct tax—which had not been levied when their petition was presented—to their ordinary taxes and the disheartening outlook in every direction were all calculated to fill the minds of men with gloomy apprehensions. The cessation of hostilities and the declaration of peace, in 1815, revived the spirits of all classes of our citizens; but before fully recovering from the disastrous effects of the war there came the cold year, 1816, followed by the scarcity and high prices of the necessities of life in 1817. The more encouraging business prospect in 1818 was hardly sufficient to warrant the incurrence of expenses other than those that were unavoidable.

For some cause, of which an explanation appears not now to be attainable, the two sections of the town were at variance in 1819. At a town meeting held in May of that year it was voted "that two-thirds of the town meetings be held at the First Parish in Wells and one-third at Maryland meeting-house." In July, the same year, a town meeting was held at Rev. Mr. Eaton's meeting-house (Maryland Ridge) at which "a committee was appointed to see where the town meetings shall be held in future." This committee reported, at a meeting held in September, that the "town meetings shall hereafter be held, alternately, in the First and Second Parish," which report was adopted. Consequently it was not until 1820 that the inhabitants of the Second Parish felt prepared to renew their application for division. This was done on the "petition of Daniel Sewall and others, namely, to see if the inhabitants of said town will agree to petition the Legislature of Maine, at the first session thereof, that the town of Wells may be so divided as to erect the parish called Kennebunk, or the Second Parish in Wells, into a town by the name of Kennebunk, with the usual corporate privileges of a town." At a town meeting held April third, 1820, this petition was consid-

ered and a committee appointed "to see where the divisional line shall be between the towns, and upon what terms and conditions the town shall be divided." On the first day of May, at an adjourned meeting, this committee made a report in reference to the divisional line, the conditions respecting the accounts of the town,—debts, credits and assessments,—the support and relief of paupers, real estate owned by the town and town stock of military stores, all the details being defined with great minuteness. Every member of the committee agreed to the report and the town accepted it unanimously. The town then voted unanimously to instruct its representatives to petition for and advocate a division of the town in the Legislature. In compliance with this vote a petition was presented as soon as the organization of the two branches of the first Legislature of Maine had been completed. "An act to divide the town of Wells and incorporate the northeasterly part thereof as a town by the name of Kennebunk" was reported a few days subsequently, which finally passed both houses and was sent to the governor for his approval prior to June 24, 1820, on which day it received his signature; said act was to take effect from and after the thirty-first day of July, 1820.<sup>1</sup>

The first section of this act defines the boundaries of the new town; the second section relates to the liabilities of the inhabitants of Kennebunk for arrears of taxes, for assessments that have been voted by the town and for debts due therefrom, and to the liabilities of Wells to the inhabitants of Kennebunk for their proportion of the assessments voted by and taxes and debts due to said town of Wells at the time of division, and also in reference to the personal property belonging thereto; the third section relates to paupers; the fourth, to the division of real estate and military stores belonging to Wells; the fifth we give in full:—

"Section 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the privileges of obtaining clams, seaweed and rockweed from the beaches and flats in said

<sup>1</sup>The town of Arundel, in 1812, petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts to change its name to Kennebunk. The town of Wells remonstrated against the proposed alteration, and the reasons assigned by the remonstrants for their opposition to the change were regarded by the General Court as both reasonable and just. The petition of Arundel was consequently unsuccessful. The selectmen of Arundel, acting under a vote of the town, petitioned the Legislature of Maine, early in its first session, that it might take the name of Kennebunk. The petition of the representatives of the town of Wells that the Second Parish in said town might be allowed to take that name had already been presented and a bill reported in accordance with its request. Robert Towne and others then sent in a petition that the town of Arundel might be permitted to take the name of Kennebunkport, which request was granted at the second session of the Legislature, and an act authorizing the change was approved by the governor February 19, 1821.



town, which the inhabitants have been accustomed to use from time immemorial, shall continue in common as heretofore."

Section six defines the method of calling the first meeting of the inhabitants of Kennebunk for the choice of town officers, etc., and the seventh and last section directs at what time the act shall take effect.

The first town meeting in the new town of Kennebunk was held in the meeting-house of the "First Congregational Parish," on Monday, August fourteenth, 1820, for the election of town officers and the transaction of other town business. The officers chosen were: Timothy Frost, Town Clerk; Timothy Frost, James Dorrance and Benjamin Titcomb, Jr., Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor; Joseph Moody, Town Treasurer.

Kennebunk contained in 1820 two thousand one hundred and forty-five inhabitants, four hundred and eighty-three polls, and its valuation was two hundred and thirty-five thousand and twenty-three dollars and forty cents.<sup>1</sup>

*Commerce of Kennebunk in 1820:* Number of clearances at the custom house for foreign ports, seventy-one; number of entries from foreign ports, fifty-seven; number of coastwise clearances, fifty-three; number of coastwise entries, forty-eight.

The second or annual town meeting was held on the first Monday in April, 1821. Joseph Hatch, Nathaniel Jefferds and Jeremiah Lord were chosen Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor; Samuel Ross, Constable and Collector of Taxes. All the other town officers chosen at the first meeting, held in August of the preceding year, were re-elected.

Amount of Town, County and State Taxes committed by the Assessors to the Collector for 1821, one thousand nine hundred and forty-four dollars and seventy-two cents.

Following is a list of officers that have served the town in the capacity of clerk and treasurer from 1820 to 1890.

Timothy Frost was appointed the first town clerk and held the office from 1820 to 1832. He was again elected to office in 1835 and held it continuously until 1844, making his whole term of service in this capacity twenty-one years.

<sup>1</sup> Wells contained 2,660 inhabitants, 576 polls and its valuation was \$170,920.60. The population of Arundel was 2,478; number of polls, 500; valuation, \$324,122.50. Population of the twenty-three towns then constituting York County, 46,284. In 1810 the population of these towns was 41,877. Increase in ten years, 4,407. Population of the nine counties into which the State was then divided, 228,705 against 297,839 in 1820, showing an increase in ten years of 69,134.

John Lillie held the office two years, 1832 to 1834.

John Frost, one year, 1834 to 1835.

Andrew Walker, from 1844 to 1856, twelve years.

George W. Wallingford, from 1856 to 1861, five years.

George Mendum, one year, 1861 to 1862.

Edmund Warren, from 1862 to 1864 and from 1865 to 1869,  
six years.

William Fairfield, one year, 1864 to 1865.

A. Warren Mendum from 1869 to 1873 and from 1874 to 1884.

Mark H. Ford, one year, 1873 to 1874.

Walter L. Dane, five years, from 1884 to 1889.

A. Warren Mendum was again elected in 1889, continuing in  
office at the present date, 1890.

Joseph Moody was the first town treasurer and held the office  
eleven years, from 1820 to 1831.

Daniel Sewall, seven years, from 1831 to 1838.

William M. Bryant, two years, 1838 to 1840.

Enoch Hardy, eight years, 1840 to 1848.

Andrew Walker, fourteen years, 1848 to 1861 and for the year  
1866.

George Mendum, one year, 1861 to 1862.

Edward W. Morton, three years, 1862 to 1865.

Daniel Remich, twenty years, 1865 (elected in 1866, but de-  
clined) and 1867 to 1886.

Edward W. Morton was again elected in 1886, still continuing  
in office, 1890.

## CHAPTER II.

POLITICAL, 1821 to 1840.

The political campaign preceding the State election in 1821 was a very exciting one. The Republican party was divided, one section supporting Albion K. Paris for governor and the other section warmly espousing the cause of Joshua Wingate, Jr., who was also a candidate for that office. The Federalists supported Ezekiel Whitman, but without any expectation of his success. The *Gazette*, at that time, was an impartial paper, and its columns, for several weeks before election day, were crowded with communications advocating the support of the favorites of the respective correspondents. Many of these communications were from leading men of the times, of all parties, in the State. The *Statesman*, printed at Portland and edited by Doctor Low, was started, it was said, especially in aid of Wingate; the *Argus* supported Paris. One Harry Hance, a crank, who represented, as he declared, a powerful organization known as the "Funguntum Society," was a frequent visitor, in those days, to the several towns in York County. He was a "*Statesman* man" to the core, and his open-air declamations, lauding Wingate and denouncing Paris, were listened to with great delight by the crowds that were sure to gather whenever the sound of his voice, with its peculiar nasal twang, was heard on the street. His harangues afforded unbounded amusement to the bystanders, irrespective of party or age. He was witty at times and some of his "hits" were not only really humorous, but deeply laden with homely and cutting truths; on the whole, however, his utterances were not calculated to leave very strong or very favorable impressions on the minds of his auditors. The election came off on the tenth of September, when York County gave Paris one thousand four hundred and fifteen votes; Wingate, nine hundred and thirty-one; Whitman, seven hundred and seventy-four. Paris was elected by a majority exceeding sixteen hundred. Kennebunk gave Whitman ninety-six votes; Paris, thirty-three; Wingate, six.

Contemporaneous with Hance was another crank, named Hanscomb, from Kittery, who made a semi-annual tour to the seaboard towns of York County for the purpose of selling "baiths"



(government, State and county offices). For the promise of a stipulated sum he would agree to confer upon the promisor a post office or collectorship or any desirable position in the public service. He afforded much merriment to the little groups of men and boys who were prompt to gather when he appeared on the main street of our village, and with his peculiar tone and lisp invited proposals for his unique merchandise. Later, still another crank, "old Snow," was often seen on our streets, invariably with a small birch pail and on a "half-toot." Many listened with great pleasure to his odd sayings, but he fell far behind those above named in wit and comicality.

An election for the choice of a representative to Congress for the York District, held on the seventh day of April, 1823, resulted in no choice. Edward P. Hayman, of South Berwick, was the Federal candidate (Mr. Dane having declined a renomination). William Burleigh, of South Berwick, was supported by a small portion of the Republican party, but a large majority of the votes he received were thrown by those who had previously been members of the Federal party. Isaac Lane, of Hollis, Thomas G. Thornton, of Saco, and Rufus McIntire, of Parsonsfield, were the Republican candidates. The vote of Kennebunk was: Hayman, nineteen; Burleigh, one hundred and two; Lane, forty-five; Thornton, six. The election was preceded by a spirited and somewhat acrimonious canvass. The thirtieth day of the following June was appointed for a second trial. Doctor Thornton declined being considered a candidate. Mr. Hayman's name was withdrawn. We presume his nomination, at the preceding trial, was the last made by the Federalists in York County. For a while thereafter they united with those Republicans (the supporters of Burleigh) who had severed their connection with the "straight outs" and rallied under the title of the "People's Party." In this town Burleigh received fifty-one votes; Lane, seven; McIntire, twenty; scattering, one. In the county Burleigh received nine hundred and eighty-four votes; Lane, eight hundred and eleven; McIntire, four hundred and seventy-five; scattering, fifty-five. No choice. A third trial was appointed to be held on the day of the annual State election, September fifth. Colonel Lane withdrew his name from the list of candidates. In Kennebunk Burleigh received two hundred and fifty votes; McIntire, forty-two. In Kennebunkport, Burleigh, fifty-four; McIntire, eighty-five. In Wells, Burleigh, sixty-two; McIntire, one hundred and twenty-six; scattering, twelve. All the towns in the county gave Burleigh two thousand and ninety-eight; McIntire, one thousand eight hundred

and thirty-two; scattering, four hundred and eight. No choice. At the fourth trial, November third, Burleigh received two thousand and eighty-eight votes in all the towns in the county; McIntire, nineteen hundred and four, and there were ninety-two scattering. Majority for Burleigh, ninety-two. Kennebunk gave Burleigh one hundred and ninety-five votes; McIntire, fifty-two. Kennebunkport, Burleigh, thirty-nine; McIntire, eighty-nine. Wells, Burleigh, twenty-four; McIntire, one hundred and two.

William Burleigh was re-elected member of Congress from York District in September, 1824, by a large majority.

At the election of presidential electors in York District on the first Monday in November, 1824, the Adams ticket received fifteen hundred and thirty-four votes and the Crawford ticket four hundred and thirty-eight. In this town Adams received two hundred and thirty-five; Crawford, eight. In Kennebunkport, Adams, one hundred and two; Crawford, none. Wells, Adams, seventy-three; Crawford, none.

The annual State election for 1825 occurred September twelfth, but it was attended with very little excitement. Kennebunk gave two hundred and seventy-eight Whig votes and seven Democratic. Mr. Dane declined a re-election as representative to the State Legislature and Edward E. Bourne was elected to that office.

At the annual State election in September, 1826, William Burleigh was re-elected member of Congress. The Republican candidates for county senators were chosen by a small majority. Kennebunk gave three hundred and sixty-six for Prime, Scamman and Elden, "State ticket," and eighteen for Dennett, Swett and Emery, "opposition." For register of deeds, John Skeelee, two hundred and four; Timothy Frost, one hundred and forty; Joshua Roberts, two; Jeremiah Goodwin, twenty-five. Mr. Goodwin, who was then the incumbent of the office, was re-elected.

At the State election in September, 1827, the votes for member of Congress to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Burleigh in the First Congressional District were: For Rufus McIntire (Republican), twenty-one hundred and seventy-four; for John Holmes (Independent), nineteen hundred and thirty-two; scattering, one hundred and fifty-three. In this town McIntire received forty-six votes, Holmes one hundred and ninety-four and there were nine scattering. In Wells, McIntire, thirty-nine; Holmes, two hundred and nine. In Kennebunkport, McIntire, thirteen; Holmes, two hundred and eighteen.

The administration or Adams party was badly beaten in York County at the State election in 1827. For senators the highest vote for a Republican candidate was twenty-two hundred and eighty-three, while the highest on the Adams ticket was only sixteen hundred and sixty. A brisk campaign preceded the State election in 1828, which resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Adams party, the highest vote on their senatorial ticket being four thousand and twenty-five, while the highest on the Republican ticket was only two thousand five hundred and sixty-seven. Kennebunk gave the former three hundred and five, the latter seventy votes. Wells was the banner administration town, giving three hundred and forty-five votes for that party against sixty-two for the Republicans; in Kennebunkport the Adams ticket received two hundred and one votes and the Republican one hundred and eighteen. The administration party did not nominate a candidate for member of Congress, its votes being recorded under the head of "scattering." In Kennebunk, Gen. Simon Nowell (Adams), one hundred and eighty-two votes; McIntire (Republican), sixty-two, and there were nine for other persons. In the District McIntire received twenty-nine hundred and eighty-one votes; all others, fifteen hundred and thirty-four. There was no opposition to the re-election of Lincoln as governor.

At the election for the choice of electors of President and Vice President, in November of the same year, the vote of Kennebunk stood: Adams, two hundred and fifteen; Jackson, fifty-seven. Wells for Adams, two hundred and seventy-seven; Jackson, nineteen. Kennebunkport, Adams, one hundred and thirty; Jackson, fifty-six. In York District, Adams, three thousand and nineteen; Jackson, eighteen hundred and fourteen. In the State, Adams, twenty thousand seven hundred and seventy-three; Jackson, thirteen thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven; scattering, ninety-four. All the Districts in the State gave majorities for the Adams elector except Cumberland; in this the Jackson candidate was successful.

The annual State election in 1829 resulted in the choice of Jonathan G. Hunton for governor, and in the choice by the people of eight National Republican and eight Jacksonmen for State senators. Seventy-eight National Republicans and sixty-six Jacksonmen were elected representatives to the State Legislature. The national administration having changed rulers, the supporters of the Adams administration took the title of National Republicans, and



the party hitherto known as Republicans was termed Jacksonmen, a title which was not unacceptable to them. We believe they thereafter and to the present time have styled themselves the Democratic party.

At the election in 1829 York County gave three thousand five hundred and thirty votes (highest) for the National Republican candidates for State senators, and the Jackson candidates raised three thousand five hundred and twenty-six (highest). The Jackson candidate for governor (Smith) received a majority of fifty votes. Parties in Kennebunk and the neighboring towns stood as follows Kennebunk, two hundred and nineteen Republican, seventy-four Jacksonmen; Wells, three hundred and fourteen Republican, sixty-eight Jacksonmen; Kennebunkport, one hundred and forty-one Republican and one hundred and fifty Jacksonmen. The remarkable contest that attended the organization of the Senate of 1830 is among the most interesting events in the legislative records of Maine.

The fifty-fourth anniversary of American independence was celebrated by the National Republicans of York County, at Kennebunk, in a manner appropriate and spirited. A national salute of twenty-four guns, the ringing of the bell and the display of "star-spangled banners" and elegant streamers in different parts of the village greeted the rising sun. A large concourse of people, from various parts of the county, crowded the streets of the village at an early hour in the morning. At eleven o'clock a procession was formed at Towle's Hotel, which, preceded by a fine band of music, marched to the First Parish meeting-house, where a programme was carried out. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Heath (Methodist); original hymn; reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Hon. Charles Cutts; an extemporaneous discourse of nearly two hours' duration, by Hon. John Holmes, in which he reviewed the measures and policy of the national administration; an original ode; benediction by Rev. Mr. Heath; all of which was listened to by a large audience with the utmost satisfaction. The procession re-formed at close of exercises in the church and returned to the hotel, where a large number partook of a sumptuous dinner that had been provided for them. As no wine or other spirit had been provided for this occasion, there were no regular toasts. Many excellent voluntaries were given, with no other accompaniment than cold water. Not less than two thousand strangers were in town to witness or participate in the

ceremonies of the day; the procession numbered over seven hundred. On the committee of arrangements were Joseph Storer (chairman) and Charles Cutts; among the guests were Judge Greene, of South Berwick, and General Storer, of Portsmouth, N. H., all up to this time prominent members of the Democratic party, and among those who marched in the procession were many gentlemen who had been less active but well-known adherents to that party. We mention this to show that it was a period of political changes. Very many of the old Republican party stood side by side and worked with the old Federalists, and as many, or more, of the old Federalists took their places in the ranks of the old Republicans. As Mr. Holmes facetiously remarked, "Politicians went to bed at night in company with long-cherished party friends, but woke up in the morning to find that they had strange bedfellows."

An election of State officers and members of Congress occurred in Maine on the eleventh of September, 1830. The Jackson party carried the county of York as well as the State. Kennebunk gave two hundred and sixty-five National Republican votes and seventy-four for the Jackson candidates, Kennebunkport five majority for the Jackson ticket, and Wells two hundred and forty majority for the National Republican nominees.

The State election in September, 1831, notwithstanding the heated canvass which preceded it, does not appear to have been attended with even the usual excitement. The Jacksonians lost about five hundred votes and the National Republicans a larger number, in comparison with the returns of votes thrown with the returns of the election of 1830. The Jackson tickets prevailed by about one thousand majority in this county and generally throughout the State.

A meeting of National Republican young men of York County was held at Frost's Hotel, in Kennebunk, April second, 1832, for the choice of delegates to represent the young men of this county in the national convention to be held in Washington, D. C., May seventh. It was largely attended. George Wheelwright, of Kennebunkport, was Chairman and Daniel T. Granger, of Saco, Secretary. Appropriate resolutions were adopted. Daniel W. Lord, of Kennebunkport, Rufus Nichols, of Saco, John A. Burleigh, of South Berwick, Samuel Bradley, of Buxton, Calvin R. Hubbard, of Shapleigh, and Daniel Remich, of Kennebunk, were chosen delegates.

The Whigs of York County, and indeed throughout the State, were much elated with their success in 1837, which it appears was unexpected, in electing their candidate for governor (Kent), a good majority of the members of the house of representatives and ten of the twenty-five State senators, giving them a majority in joint ballot of the two branches of the Legislature. In this town the event was celebrated on the twenty-sixth of September by four national salutes, by the display of star-spangled banners from several eminences in the village, ringing of bells and the discharge of cannon. At half-past seven in the afternoon an excellent collation was served at Hilton's. About one hundred and sixty men sat down to the tables, after which remarks were made by several gentlemen, and a patriotic song was sung by Mr. B. F. Barker, of Kennebunkport.

A convention of Whig young men of the county of York assembled at Alfred February twelfth, 1840, which was largely attended. Daniel W. Lord, of Kennebunkport, President; Dr. Edwin Hall, of Alfred, Vice President; I. H. Hersey, of Saco, Secretary. A series of resolutions, presented by Daniel Remich from the committee appointed to draft resolutions, were advocated by Daniel Goodenow, of Alfred, and Samuel Bradley, Esq., of Hollis; they were unanimously adopted. Daniel Remich, of Kennebunk, was chosen delegate to the National Convention of Whig Young Men, to be held in Baltimore. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*"Resolved,* That there be a Whig county celebration of the approaching anniversary of our national independence at Kennebunk."

*"Resolved,* That a committee of five be now appointed to make the necessary arrangements for carrying the foregoing resolution into effect."

The following gentlemen were elected the committee: Daniel Remich, Thomas Lord, William Lord, Benjamin Smith, Samuel Mitchell. The convention then adjourned, to be held July fourth at Kennebunk.

The county convention, pursuant to its adjournment, as above stated, met at Kennebunk on the morning of July fourth. The usual committees were appointed, resolutions were reported and adopted, and nominations of county officers were made. Daniel Goodenow, of Alfred, was nominated as a candidate for representative to Congress from York District, and Charles Trafton, of South Berwick, for district elector of President and Vice President. Nathan D. Appleton, of Alfred, was President of the convention; Increase G. Kimball, of Lebanon, and Caleb S. Emery, of Sanford, Secretaries.



In accordance with previous arrangements, a county celebration by the Whigs of York County was held at Kennebunk on the same day. Party feeling ran high, the movement was a popular one throughout the county, and large delegations were present from every town within its borders. The committee of arrangements had made ample preparations for the occasion; the weather during the day was all that could be desired. "For numbers, for pageantry, for interesting incidents, for patriotic and spirit-stirring eloquence, for harmony and for enthusiasm, the annals of our ancient and respectable county furnish no precedent." It was unquestionably the largest political gathering ever before witnessed in Maine. At the lowest estimate, five thousand persons from other towns were in the village during the day, quite a number of them from Cumberland County, from Portsmouth and border towns in New Hampshire. It was a proud day for Kennebunk. The Whigs were in buoyant spirits; the kindly feelings that were maintained throughout the day between themselves and their neighbors who were political opponents was a marked and exceedingly pleasant event of the day. Many Democrats, who had watched the proceedings from commencement to close, expressed themselves as much gratified with all the exercises, withholding, of course, their approval from the *animus* of the celebration. Courtesies were exchanged. Not a few of the Democrats accepted invitations to partake of the viands on the dinner tables, and expressed the wish that the success of the Whigs at the polls might *not* equal that which had attended the committee of arrangements in providing the excellent and bountiful feast of good things that was set before them.

At sunrise bells in the village were rung and a national salute was fired; national flags floated from the liberty pole (then recently erected near where the "centennial tree" now stands) and from standards that had been planted on several eminences in the village. Across Main Street, from the brick block which formerly stood on the bank lot to the tall trees opposite, a large flag and three neat and appropriate banners were suspended, all with suitable inscriptions.

Between seven and eight o'clock in the morning the "Tippecanoe Volunteers," composed of young men belonging to this town, assembled to the number of forty, on horseback, dressed in a neat uniform,—dark coats, light pantaloons, red sashes and blue scarfs, at one end of which our country's emblem, the Eagle, and at the other the Arms of the State were printed, together with the words

"Tippecanoe Volunteers" in the center. They bore a beautiful white silk banner, fringed with blue and suitably inscribed, which was presented to them by young ladies of the village. This company was commanded by Col. Joshua Wakefield and had been organized for escort duty.

Delegations and spectators, from different parts of the county, began to pour into the village between eight and nine o'clock, on foot, on horseback, in vehicles of every description, by hundreds, and an hour later by thousands. The several delegations, on approaching the village, were met by the Limerick Artillery—with full ranks and in full uniform—and the Tippecanoe Volunteers, when they were escorted to places designated for them in the "orders of the day." The Limerick Artillery made a fine appearance, receiving numerous encomiums from the thousands who witnessed their manly deportment and the superiority of their evolutions.

First came the Saco, Biddeford, Buxton and Hollis delegations, preceded by the Saco Band, twenty-five in number, in uniform, with brass instruments, in a large carriage, with appropriate mottoes on its sides, drawn by four white horses. Accompanying the Saco delegation was a company of about forty boys, uniformly dressed, bearing banners. Their orderly deportment and fine appearance in every respect drew from the crowds "enthusiastic cheers at every corner." These delegations were followed by others, in rapid succession, until large representations from every town in the county were on the ground. The Lyman delegation was preceded by a veritable log cabin, placed on wheels, drawn by eight horses and conducted by six men in uniform. Within the cabin were several musicians, together with a few delegates, one of whom was enjoying his pipe; over its roof floated our national flag; in the rear was a large swivel, which was discharged frequently during the day, at proper times and places. A gentleman who had been present at nearly all the immense gatherings at the South and West during the campaign, pronounced it a *chef-d'œuvre* of log-cabin architecture, and stated that in no one of the many processions he had witnessed had he seen so perfect a facsimile of the simple dwellings of our early settlers as was this. It was greeted with reiterated cheers as it passed along by the immense multitude that thronged our streets. The Lyman log cabin was an object of general attraction throughout the day. The Kennebunk delegation was preceded by the Great Falls Band, fourteen in number, in handsome uniform. The Newfield delegation bore a banner made of ash bark, with mottoes on

one side and a poem adapted to the occasion on the reverse. Nearly all the delegations bore handsome banners with appropriate inscriptions.

The procession was formed at eleven A. M., four deep, under the direction of Capt. Henry Kingsbury, chief marshal, assisted by four aids on horseback (Charles Murch, Porter Hall, Adam McCulloch and Levi P. Hillard) and four on foot (William Lord, Jr., Ivory Lord, Tobias Walker and Heber Gowen). The escort consisted of the Artillery and Volunteers and the Saco Band. Then came the committee of arrangements, the orator of the day and chaplains, invited guests, officers of the day and of the county convention, followed by soldiers of the Revolution in carriages. First, a carriage from Saco, in which was the last survivor of the party which destroyed the tea in Boston Harbor in December, 1773, together with other Revolutionary heroes, with a banner on which was inscribed: "Soldiers of the Revolution." "Benjamin Simpson, the last of the Tea Party, Boston, December 16, 1773." Next came a barouche in which were four other patriots of the Revolution, among whom was Captain Seaward, of Portsmouth, N. H., whose years then numbered more than fourscore, and who was one of the crew of the *Bon Homme Richard*, commanded by John Paul Jones, during the most daring and sanguinary actions in which that intrepid commander was engaged. On this barouche was a banner representing the old flag of thirteen stars, etc., and inscribed: "Beneath thy folds we fought and conquered." "Young men guard it with jealous care." "Be it ever the cherished banner of the brave and the free." A few of the soldiers of the War of 1812 followed the Revolutionary heroes. Then came delegations from the several towns in alphabetical order. (This was a mistake on the part of the committee of arrangements which they did not discover until it was too late to rectify it. The delegations should have had places in the order of the dates of the incorporation of their respective towns.) Following these were visitors from adjoining counties and from New Hampshire.

The procession marched through several streets to the platform which had been erected for public exercises of the day. This was on the lot near the present homestead of N. N. Wiggin. This platform was twelve feet square and raised four feet from the ground, was carpeted, furnished with table and chairs, protected from rain or sunshine by canvas resting on frame work, and was tastefully decorated with evergreens. In front of the table were seats for soldiers of the Revolution and of the War of 1812. This assemblage was called to



order by the chairman of the committee of arrangements. A fervent and appropriate prayer was offered by Rev. Oliver Barron (of the Baptist denomination), of Wells. The "Marseilles Hymn" was then sung, with spirit and elegance, by Israel Kimball, of Elliott, accompanied on the chorus by members of the Saco Band, after which Hon. Ichabod Bartlett, of Portsmouth, N. H., commenced an address which occupied an hour in the delivery. It was a production of uncommon merit and was listened to by the vast auditory with rapt attention; the orator was several times interrupted by plaudits of the multitude, and at the conclusion of the address Mr. Bartlett sat down amid deafening shouts of the audience in testimony of their gratification and approval. The song, by Deering, of Portland, "The hour is coming and the man," was then sung by Mr. Kimball, accompanied as before, for whom three hearty cheers were given. This concluded the exercises on the platform.

The procession re-formed, in the same order as in the morning, and marched through Main Street to the dinner pavilion, which was erected on a level spot known to generations which have passed along as "Storer's Pasture," and by those later on the stage of action as the "Factory Pasture," opposite the leather board manufactory. It was one hundred and fifty feet long and seventy-five feet wide; the outside was built post and board fence fashion and was covered with canvas, a very comfortable although a somewhat primitive looking structure. Inside were six tables, each one hundred and forty-four feet in length, and three about ten feet shorter each, to afford space for elevated seats for the bands. The tables were abundantly supplied with provisions, and although more than *two thousand* persons sat down to them, partook of the viands and were fully satisfied, it was estimated that the "fragments" left were amply sufficient for a dinner for two hundred persons. Cold water and hop beer were the only beverages furnished. An idea may be formed as to the quantity of wares required to set these tables by the fact that, on clearing them, the *knives and forks* alone measured almost *seven bushels*.

Immediately after dinner the county convention was called to order by Mr. Appleton, the business before which occupied about forty minutes. When it had adjourned, the president of the county celebration (Mr. Dane) addressed the assembly briefly, but pertinently, and concluded by introducing Erastus Brooks, editor of the *Portland Advertiser*, who had just returned from Washington. Mr. Brooks spoke for an hour, during which time he was listened to with

the strictest attention and with no ordinary degree of satisfaction. It was a noble effort, and the thousands who composed his audience manifested their approval of his utterances by repeated cheers. Daniel Goodenow, of Alfred, followed. His remarks were brief, but able and eloquent.

A resolution, tendering to the orator of the day the thanks of the assembly for his sound exposition of Republican principles and able defense of popular rights, was adopted by acclamation. Mr. Bartlett responded briefly, but felicitously.

The company, after giving "three times three and one to carry" for Harrison and Tyler, separated in excellent spirits. "The ceremonies of the day were concluded at about five o'clock in the afternoon, and when the sunset guns were fired the vast concourse of people who had participated in them, with few exceptions, had left the village for their homes; our streets presented no unusual bustle; no accident or unpleasant incident had occurred to cause regret or to render the recollections of the day other than pleasant. The county celebration of the Fourth of July, 1840, will long be remembered as one worthy of the occasion and conducted in a manner befitting intelligent freemen."

Considerable space has been given to the account of this celebration (which is merely an abridgment of that originally published) as it was in reality a "great day for Kennebunk," unapproached by any celebration or public gathering ever witnessed in this town before or since the Fourth of July, 1840. It is fair to presume, therefore, that it will be read with deep interest by the present and future citizens of this locality.

The State election, September, 1840, was hardly contested; both parties "did their best." The State was carried by the Whigs, they electing governor, majority of senators and majority of representatives. York County remained Democratic, with a majority less by about three hundred and fifty than in 1839.

A county meeting of Whigs and others opposed to the policy of the national administration was held in Alfred, October fifth, 1840. It was called to order by Dr. Samuel Emerson, of Kennebunk, and organized by the choice of Capt. Daniel Nason, of Kennebunkport, Chairman; Daniel Remich, of Kennebunk, and Dimon Roberts, of Lyman, Secretaries. Prayer was made by Rev. Mr. Marsh (formerly of Sanford) and speeches were made by Daniel Goodenow, of Alfred, and General Appleton, of Portland. Resolutions were adopted. The meeting was well attended and enthusiastic.

Gen. James Wilson, of Keene, N. H., a gentleman distinguished for his talents and as an eloquent and effective orator, addressed the people of Kennebunk "on the prominent political topics of the day," at the Town Hall, on the afternoon of the twenty-seventh of October, 1840. He spoke nearly three and one-half hours to a large audience, composed of the Whigs of Kennebunk and neighboring towns and other citizens, who exhibited no signs of weariness, but, on the contrary, listened to the address throughout with undivided attention and deep interest.

The election in Maine for the choice of electors of President and Vice President resulted in the success of the "Harrison ticket" by a majority of four hundred and twenty-two votes. In York County there was a Whig gain of about sixty-five, compared with the vote at the State election in September of the same year. In Kennebunk the Harrison electors received two hundred and fifty-one votes, the Van Buren electors one hundred and ninety-eight; at the September election Kent, for governor, received two hundred and thirty-one votes and Fairfield one hundred and ninety-two. York County was the great battle ground during this Presidential contest. If the Democrats could gain a few hundreds, compared with the September election, the State would go for Van Buren; if the Whigs could "hold their own," it was safe to count upon it for Harrison.



## CHAPTER III.

### ECCLESIASTICAL.

The following facts relating to the early history—from 1750 to 1821—of the Second Parish in Wells, as styled before the division of the town in 1820, and after that date until the present time bearing the title of the “First Congregational Parish in Kennebunk,” are condensed from the chapters in Bourne’s History devoted to this subject. Although nearly all these particulars, obtained from the town records, newspapers, etc., are noticed in the preceding pages, we think it desirable, even at the risk of repetition, to insert this synopsis of Mr. Bourne’s copious details, inasmuch as these were derived from the parish records, and in order that our account of its beginning and progress may be full and continuous. We add several interesting facts.

In 1750 the town of Wells voted to set off the inhabitants living between the Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers as a distinct parish. On the fourteenth day of June in that year the parish was incorporated by the Massachusetts Legislature; it was duly organized in August following by the choice of the customary officers and the adoption of such votes as circumstances required, and a call was extended to Rev. Daniel Little to become its pastor, which he accepted January 31, 1751. A church was consecrated March fourteenth of that same year, consisting of twenty-one male members, to which were added, on the first Sunday in June, eighteen females. Mr. Little’s ordination took place on the twenty-seventh day of March.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the incorporation of the parish a meeting-house had been erected (in 1749) and so far completed that religious services were held within its walls in the winter of 1749–50. It stood on the site of the dwelling-house now owned and occupied by Charles F. Tarbox; it was a rough structure of two stories, thirty feet in length. The increase of population at Storer’s Mills on the Mousam, at Littlefield’s Mills on the Kennebunk, and especially at Alewife,

<sup>1</sup> It deserves mention that in 1752 it was voted by this society to take up a contribution on Thanksgiving Day, the proceeds of which should be devoted to charitable purposes, and that at the ensuing Thanksgiving more than fifty dollars were raised. How long this praiseworthy course was continued, or how well the parish sustained its reputation for liberality at these contributions in subsequent years, we are not informed.

on the Plains and at Cat Mousam, induced feelings of discontent among the inhabitants of these localities in regard to the situation of the meeting-house, and in March, 1767, a proposition was made at a parish meeting to remove the building to the lot now occupied by the Unitarian Church, which was carried, twenty-three to eight. It was found impracticable, for various reasons, to carry this vote into effect, however, and the project was abandoned. In 1772 the parish voted to build a new meeting-house, fifty-six by forty-four, two stories high, with a porch in front, with forty-six pews on the lower floor and twenty-four in the gallery. Although the house was not completed, it was voted November 22, 1773, "that the public worship of God be hereby removed from the old to the new meeting-house." In 1799 the several committees that had been appointed under different votes to superintend the construction of the edifice, or certain specified parts of it, were discharged, but the building had not been finished. We are told that the society was united and harmonious. Fully one-quarter of a century had passed away since the vote to build a new house on a new location, and during these years fifty parish meetings had been held to adopt, annul or modify votes in relation to it. And now it would appear that the structure was not only incomplete, but generally unsatisfactory.

Between the years 1799 and 1803 the population of the Second Parish was considerably increased, and at the last-named date there was good reason to believe that the precinct would continue to increase for years to come, in the number of its inhabitants as well as in its industries and wealth. It was at this time generally admitted that the meeting-house should be enlarged, and votes were passed at a parish meeting held June 20, 1803, authorizing an addition of twenty-eight feet to its length and the erection of a belfry, also making provision for the commencement, prosecution and completion of the work, including the finishing of the interior of both the new and old parts of the house. The building was sawn in two, the rear half part moved back twenty-eight feet, the intervening space connected by walls, and a new roof over the whole. The tower was erected as far as the floor of the belfry during that year and after the interior was completed the church was fitted out with new pews.

A thrilling incident occurred at the close of the joiners' work on the outside of the building. The roof had been shingled, the stagings removed, and the taking down of a long ladder was all that remained to be done, when Mr. Eaton, the contractor, while looking

with others upon the roof, espied a number of small pieces of shingles lying near the west side of the ridgepole which he thought it would be well to sweep off. With this purpose he took a broom, climbed to the belfry floor and thence stepped on to the roof; he had proceeded but a short distance when he slipped and began to descend toward the eaves. A part of those who were watching his movements hurried to pile up shavings at the place where it seemed inevitable that he must fall, while others were removing the ladder to a point where, if they could reach it seasonably, there was ground for hope that it would be serviceable to him. Mr. Eaton succeeded, by judicious use of his arms and legs, in slackening his speed, but still continued to descend until his feet were beyond the roof's edge, when he stopped. A shingle nail had not been driven home and this, catching in his pantaloons, arrested his progress. A minute later the ladder was so placed as to prevent his falling, and a strong man had ascended so far that by his aid Mr. Eaton was enabled to grasp the ladder, regain an erect position and descend in safety. It was truly a hairbreadth escape. This story is well authenticated.

The spire was not erected until the summer of 1804. The bell was put in position and first rung, to the great edification of expectant citizens, in the autumn of that year. This bell has quite an historic value inasmuch as it is called the "Paul Revere bell," cast on the sides of which is "Revere & Son, 1803," named for the same one as took the memorable midnight ride through Charlestown to Concord and Lexington and said to his friend:

"If the British march  
By land or sea from the town to-night,  
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch."

This bell originally possessed very strong and clear tones; on the occasion of a disastrous fire at Kennebunk in 1824 its alarm was audible at Shaker Hill in Alfred, eleven miles distant.

The bell was rung week days at seven in the morning, at noon, and the curfew at nine in the evening, the last named supplemented by a stroke of the hammer against the bell for each day of the month, *i. e.* the first day of a month was indicated by one stroke and so on through its days until the last, which, if the month contained thirty-one days, required that number of strokes against the bell. This practice was not discontinued until about 1816. Mr. Jacob Kimball was for many years sexton of the church, among the duties of which office was the ringing of the bell for religious services Sundays and whenever they might be held on week days.



The parish paid the whole bill. After the Second Parish had been organized the First Parish thought the expense of the regular week-day ringing should be divided between the two; the Second declined to enter into such an arrangement and the First declined to have it rung on their account. It was of such general convenience, however, especially to farmers and mechanics, that it could not well be dispensed with, so the custom was continued and the expenses defrayed by subscription. After a factory had been put in operation, its bell fully answered the needs of the public, and the ringing of that belonging to the First Parish was no longer required. This was the second bell in the county, the first having been raised to the belfry of the meeting-house in York sixteen years previously. Besides these there was only one other in the District, at Portland, in the belfry of Mr. Smith's church, where it was hung in 1753.

In 1810 a small organ was purchased by subscription and set up in the singers' seats. It was built by Dr. Joshua Furbish, of Wells, who was an ingenious mechanic, a self-taught organ builder, and withal somewhat distinguished for his mathematical genius.

In 1820 necessary repairs were made upon the church edifice, after which the exterior was painted and also in part the interior.

Two stoves were set up in the meeting house in 1821, the first warming apparatus, except hand stoves, introduced into the church building. The power of imagination was strongly exemplified on the Sunday after these stoves had been put into the places they were to occupy on the floor and before the setting up of the funnel had been completed. A strong effort was made to get them in running order before a certain Sunday, but the funnels were very long and little hindrances numerous, so that it was found impracticable and the work was suspended at a late hour on Saturday evening. The next day proved to be clear, but very cold. A good old lady, who sat in one of the pews in the body of the house, was heard by a woman who occupied a pew adjoining to sigh frequently and to move about uneasily. Soon she threw off her shawl and laying it across the partition between the pews whispered to her neighbor: "I can't stand this; it is so hot here that a shawl is unbearable." The neighbor quietly replied: "There has been no fire in the stoves; they couldn't get the funnel completed yesterday." "Is that so?" queried the old lady, and her neighbor noticed that the shawl was gradually and noiselessly withdrawn from the partition and replaced over the shoulders of the recent sufferer from intense heat.

In 1840, after the galleries had been floored over, the audience room was heated by hot-air pipes from stoves in the hall and lecture room beneath, thus doing away with the box stoves that had for so many years occupied a corner pew at each side of the aisle at the entrance end of the church, with their unsightly long funnels extending to the chimney, at the joints of which hung small pails to catch the creosote. In 1852 furnaces were purchased by the society; these were supplanted in 1864 by still better ones.

Blinds for the windows of the church were purchased, by subscription, in 1821. These were removed in 1838, the windows enlarged and new blinds to correspond with them were hung. These changes, the closing up of the doorway on its western side and the removal of the steps leading thereto are the only alterations that have been made on or about the exterior of the main building to this day. The steeple remains as it was left by the carpenters in 1804, excepting the closing up of two doors, one on each side of the basement of the tower, and the dial plate of the clock above the belfry.

A new organ was placed in the singers' seats in October, 1827. This was also the handiwork of Mr. Furbish, but was much larger and was regarded as a great improvement, both in tone and power, upon that which was set up in 1810 and which was now taken down and sold at auction. The cost of the new organ, it is believed, was four hundred dollars. Of this sum Mr. Ebenezer Shackley contributed two hundred dollars. In 1850 the society was presented with a fine pipe organ, costing one thousand dollars, the liberal gift of Capt. William Lord, Jr.

Mr. Little was compelled, in consequence of failing health, to relinquish the active duties devolving upon him as pastor of the society in 1799. In a letter dated June 8, 1800, written by Mr. Little to Rev. Mr. Lyman, of York, he says: "Through divine goodness I enjoy comfortable health of body, but my powers of recollection and reflection are very feeble, and my affections and passions childish. . . . Mr. Fletcher, our present candidate, comes well recommended. His performances have been agreeable to me and the people. The church and parish will this day be notified to give their opinion in the choice of a colleague pastor. I hope that the wisdom that is from above will direct our ways." The pulpit was supplied, by committees appointed for the purpose, until the third day of September, 1800, when the ordination of Nathaniel H. Fletcher as colleague pastor with Mr. Little took place. Mr.

Fletcher's salary was fixed at four hundred dollars per annum, with the use of the parsonage property, consisting of wild land in Alewife. The sermon at the ordination was by Rev. Dr. Tappan, of Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Little died the fifth day of October, 1801, aged seventy-eight years, having held the pastorate of this society for the term of fifty years.

A Sunday school—the first in the town—was inaugurated at the meeting-house in the village on Sunday, the sixteenth day of May, 1819. The *Visiter* of November twenty-seventh sums up the season's work as follows: Children admitted to the school, two hundred and twenty-five; number of verses recited from the Bible, thirty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty-five; number of verses from Watts's Hymns, twenty-two thousand six hundred and fifty-two; number of answers from different catechisms, sixty-three thousand five hundred and nineteen. Several of the scholars received their first lessons in spelling and reading in the school. "The good behavior, diligence and acquisition of the school in general" are spoken of in commendatory terms.

We continue the history of the First Parish, commencing with a brief statement of facts in regard to the "Greenleaf Controversy," which we gather from copies of votes and communications published in the *Gazette* during its progress.

The views of Mr. Little respecting the prominent doctrinal points that, shortly after the close of his ministerial labors, became the strong dividing lines between the Orthodox and Unitarian churches, are not distinctly known. We apprehend that during the last part of the eighteenth century—in country parishes more especially—the true worship of the omniscient and omnipotent God and the leading of lives consonant with the precepts and example of Christ were topics most earnestly and most frequently dwelt upon in pulpit exhortations of those who held the ministerial office. It was the life and not a creed that was to save. Theoretical doctrines were by no means neglected, but were often zealously expounded in discourses of many divisions, from "firstly" even to "nineteenthly" and "twentiethly"; but then, as now, there were many different shades of belief, all of which were nominally evangelical.

The Kennebunk parish was noted for the harmony that prevailed among its members. We have no reason to believe that this unity was the outgrowth of indifference; they were, as a whole, a church-going people, firm believers in the great truths of Christian-



ity and as free from the prevailing foibles and vices of the time as any other community. Indeed, its inhabitants sustained an excellent reputation for morality, integrity and nobleness, and were frequently spoken of abroad as remarkable for these excellencies of general character.

The great doctrinal discussion, in 1812, between Dr. Worcester and Prof. Stuart, in support of the views held by the Orthodox, and Dr. Channing and Prof. Ware, in defense and advocacy of those held by the Unitarians, changed the peaceful current of thought and feeling in reference to religious subjects that had prevailed in Maine. In all the parishes there were, probably, some who embraced the faith held by the Unitarians, but with very few exceptions, in all of them, the tenets of the Orthodox were generally accepted. Of the parishes in York County one only contained a strong majority of believers in the doctrines advocated by Channing and Ware, — that in Kennebunk, Rev. Mr. Fletcher (successor to Mr. Little), pastor. For awhile, however, the good fellowship among the churches was not disturbed.

Jonathan Greenleaf was ordained as pastor of the Congregational Church and Society in Wells in March, 1815, Mr. Fletcher being one of the council and giving the right hand of fellowship. Mr. Greenleaf was possessed of respectable talents, was zealous, ambitious, fond of controversy, and one of that unhappy, but unfortunately very numerous, class of individuals who are unwilling to accord to others the rights of private judgment and of conscientious action which they claim for themselves, and are often unmindful that those whom they arraign and criticise are, as regards purity of life, education, sound judgment and true respectability, fully their equals if not superiors. Some eighteen months after his ordination Mr. Greenleaf sent an anonymous letter to Mr. Fletcher, concerning his religious faith, which was ungentlemanly and insulting in its tone, and which we presume never found a defender, rarely an apologist. This was followed a year later by another letter, over his own signature, apologizing for the manner of the first, but scarcely less abusive. Mr. Fletcher, who had taken no notice of the first communication, now laid the whole matter before his parish. Its members were naturally excited and indignant. A parish meeting was called, by which a committee was appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of its sentiments. Several strong resolutions, drawn by George W. Wallingford, were reported and unanimously adopted; they declared undiminished confidence in and respect for Mr.

Fletcher and denounced the action of Mr. Greenleaf. As was to be expected, these movements produced great excitement; doctrines were discussed; harsh epithets were used; the Unitarians were not inclined to rest quietly while branded as "infidels," as of a sect "who denied the Saviour," and with other disparaging appellations, and they, too, were not backward in the use of expressions calculated to irritate their persecutors. Those who had been firm friends were estranged, the intimate relations that had been maintained between families being succeeded by coolness and stately recognition. Several families and parts of families left the old parish and, with a number of residents who had never been regular attendants at the services held there, formed a congregation respectable in numbers, embracing some of the best citizens and a fair representation of the wealth of the town. Regular Sunday religious services were held by them in the spacious hall of the "old brick store," and the "Union Church" was organized on the fifteenth day of August, 1826.<sup>1</sup> Public exercises were also held on the afternoon of the same day; sermon by Rev. T. Pomeroy, of Gorham. In December, 1827, Daniel Campbell was ordained as pastor over this church and society.

The events just narrated placed Mr. Fletcher in an embarrassing position. He was convinced that it would be better for the parish if he should dissolve his connection with it,—indeed he thought it to be his duty to do so,—but his relations with his people, as a whole, were very pleasant. He had a large family; with great labor and much personal sacrifice he had brought his farm into an excellent condition,<sup>2</sup> and his buildings were neat, convenient, ample and in good repair; it was a desirable home and he was past the meridian of life. He was not long, however, in determining upon a course of action. He would resign his pastorate, sell his homestead and outlying lands, remove to an interior town in Massachusetts and there occupy the paternal mansion and farm, of which he was the owner by inheritance. He made known his views to the active members of his society. They felt that his conclusions were judi-

<sup>1</sup> From this date the hall was known as "Union Hall" until the building was destroyed by fire.

<sup>2</sup> The fine rows of elms on both sides of the street, in the immediate vicinity of his residence, were set out by Mr. Fletcher about 1812. The long line of stump fence which for many years formed the roadside inclosure of his large field, bounded westerly by the river, was built by Mr. Fletcher at the cost of a great amount of hard labor. While it stood erect it was the subject of many favorable comments by citizens and strangers. Only a very small portion of it is still standing; this is badly broken, however, and gives but a faint idea of its original size and somewhat imposing appearance.

cious; that if he continued here his situation, under the circumstances, would be one of disquietude; that it was inadvisable to permit personal regrets to interfere with the obvious good of the old parish, so dear to pastor and to people. It was resolved to adopt the plan recommended by Mr. Fletcher. A request was made at the headquarters of the denomination, in Boston, that a young man should be sent to occupy the pulpit as a candidate. In response, George W. Wells, of Boston, was selected as a person well fitted to meet the wants of the society. A number of the parishioners met at the bookstore, by arrangement, on the afternoon of the day on which he arrived in town, to whom he was introduced by Rev. Mr. Fletcher. He was twenty-five years of age, below the medium stature, slender, evidently not robust, and extremely diffident. All present expressed themselves as much pleased with his unassuming manners, but several were fearful that he would not be able to meet the requirements of the situation. The next day was Sunday and the church was well filled. The plain, earnest, well-written and well-delivered sermons by the young candidate delighted all his hearers. The services on his second Sunday increased these favorable impressions. Mr. Fletcher's opinion being sought, his answer was, "Seek no farther." At a parish meeting held a few days subsequently it was voted unanimously to extend to Mr. Wells an invitation to settle as colleague pastor with Mr. Fletcher. The invitation was accepted and the ordination exercises occurred on the twenty-fourth day of October, 1827, as follows: Introductory Prayer by Rev. Mr. Frothingham, of Boston; Reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Barrett, of Boston; Consecrating Prayer by Rev. Dr. Kirkland, of Harvard University; Sermon by Rev. Dr. Lowell, of Boston, from Romans, eighth chapter, ninth and tenth verses; Charge by Rev. Mr. Fletcher; Right Hand of Fellowship by Rev. Mr. Ripley, of Boston; Address to the People by Rev. Dr. Nichols, of Portland; Concluding Prayer by Rev. Dr. Parker, of Portsmouth. Two hymns, written for the occasion by Rev. Mr. Fletcher, were sung during the exercises.

An association called the Unitarian Association of Kennebunk, auxiliary to the American Unitarian Association, was organized April third, 1827; Rev. Nathaniel H. Fletcher was chosen President and Daniel Sewall, Secretary and Treasurer. This was subsequently merged into a county association, which was formed and organized at a meeting of gentlemen from several towns in the county of York, held in Kennebunk on the twenty-fourth day of October, 1827,



under the name of "The York County Unitarian Association, auxiliary to the American Unitarian Association," to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity. A constitution was drawn up and adopted. Rev. Mr. Fletcher was chosen President, Rev. Thomas Tracy,<sup>1</sup> of Biddeford, Vice President, and Daniel Sewall, Secretary and Treasurer. Directors, John Low, of Kennebunk; William A. Hayes, of South Berwick; Pelatiah Harmon, Jr., of Buxton; George Thacher, of Saco; William Low, of Kennebunk; Jeremiah Bradbury, of Alfred, and Charles O. Emerson, of York. The bookstore of James K. Remich, in Kennebunk, was designated as a depository for the publications of the American Unitarian Association. A sermon was delivered before the newly formed County Association on the evening of the twenty-fourth by Rev. Henry Ware, Jr., of Boston, from Ephesians, fourth chapter, fourth and fifth verses. A large edition of this sermon was published at the *Gazette* office. It has been published by the American Unitarian Association as one of its tracts.

We think the interest in this association gradually lessened, as the excitement growing out of the circumstances above narrated diminished, and that it was maintained only a few years.

Mr. Wells's health began to fail in 1835, and two years later, by the recommendation of physicians, he made arrangements to spend the winter (1837-38) at the South. It so happened that Rev. Mr. Bascom, who had been preaching in Savannah, Ga., was in ill health at the time and was advised by his physician to spend the winter in New England. These facts becoming known to each other, correspondence ensued, which resulted in an agreement for an exchange of pulpits for the winter and early spring months. Accordingly Mr. Wells went to Savannah and Mr. Bascom came to Kennebunk. Mr. Bascom was a man of good talents, wrote excellent sermons and delivered them in an acceptable manner. He was a gentleman of the old school, formal, yet genial; conservative, but free from narrowness. We think he was the only minister who ever held religious services in the church on Christmas Day (when it occurred on a week day). These services were well attended, forenoon and afternoon. The novelty of the event, and perhaps, we

<sup>1</sup>The Second Parish meeting-house in Saco (Unitarian) was dedicated November 21, 1827, and on the same day Rev. Thomas Tracy was installed as its pastor. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Greenwood, of Boston. A sermon was delivered in the evening by Rev. Mr. Walker, of Charlestown. Large editions of both of these sermons were published at the *Kennebunk Gazette* office. The last-named was afterward published by the American Unitarian Association, as a tract, with the title of "The Exclusive System."

should add, the remarkable mildness of the weather, drew out congregations above the average of the usual gatherings on Sunday, quite a number being in attendance from other societies. Mr. Wells was much admired by the Savannah people, and he preached to full houses during his stay in that city. It is quite probable that too much was required of him while there; he returned home in the spring very little improved in health.

At a parish meeting held in April, 1838, a proposition was made looking to the remodeling of the interior of the church, because it was known that its large size rendered it difficult—sometimes exceedingly difficult—for speakers occupying the pulpit to raise their voices so as to be heard distinctly in all parts of the house, and it was feared that Mr. Wells's trouble might be aggravated from this cause; and secondly because the church was old-fashioned, with few long and many square pews, a pulpit so elevated that it required many steps to reach it, and galleries that were unnecessary and unsightly. To keep abreast of the fashion of the time, therefore, it ought certainly to be modernized and improved. The proposition met with a hearty response, and it was voted to commence the work without unnecessary delay. By the plan adopted, the galleries were removed; a floor was laid over the interior about ten feet above the sills, thus dividing the house, horizontally, into a lower and an upper apartment. The lower floor was left for a while in its original state (excepting, of course, the pews and pulpit) and was used for town and other public meetings, such as lyceum, temperance and other lectures. The upper floor was very neatly finished with pews (nearly all of which were lined), pulpit and choir, in the then modern style, and later the aisles were carpeted, chandeliers were put up, the old organ removed and a better one (the gift of Capt. William Lord, Jr.,) placed in the choir, while the room on the lower floor was divided by a partition into two apartments; that on the western side afforded a good room for the purposes above named, as well as for the Sunday school, a room for the parish library, a kitchen with closets and other adjuncts for "society" uses; that on the eastern side finished so as to afford a vestry, conveniently and neatly furnished with seats, pulpit, etc., and in the rear of the vestry a room answering the double purpose of a sitting room and for the Sunday-school library, which has been used in later years as a room for the parish library.

The remodeling of the interior of the church edifice failed to produce its hoped-for effect, so far as it related to the health of the

pastor, which soon became a source of anxiety to his parishioners and to himself, and before the lapse of many months after his return from the South it was apparent that it was absolutely necessary that he should sever his connection with the parish—"a connection inexpressibly dear to the whole parish"—and seek a remedial agent in the different and more congenial air of the interior. Mr. Wells asked dismission on the fifth of October, 1838, which was granted at a parish meeting held on the fifteenth of that month, and a committee "selected from the fathers of the church" (Samuel Emerson, Daniel Sewall and Joseph Hatch) was appointed to communicate to him the action of the meeting.

Rev. Edward H. Edes, who had been pastor of the Unitarian Society in Augusta, Maine, was installed as pastor over the church and society October 23, 1839. Early in the fourth year of his ministry here his health began to fail, the result of neglected colds, which, working on a constitution not naturally strong, led to a state of decline. Still he worked on, alternating between hope and fear, now encouraged by apparently returning strength, soon to be disappointed by still greater weakness. He died May 30, 1845. His remains were interred in the cemetery near the church where he had labored so faithfully.

William C. Tenney was the fifth pastor of this church. He was ordained October 7, 1845. Mr. Tenney was dismissed at his own request January 17, 1848.

Joshua A. Swan, of Lowell, Mass., succeeded Mr. Tenney. Mr. Swan was ordained February 6, 1850. On the twenty-sixth of June the centennial anniversary of the formation of the First Congregational Society in Kennebunk was appropriately noticed. The exercises on the occasion were: Voluntary; Introductory Prayer, by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Swan; Hymn; Reading of the Scriptures; Hymn; Prayer, by Rev. Dr. Nichols; Address, by Edward E. Bourne; Hymn; Concluding Prayer; Benediction. In the evening a collation was served in the vestry, addresses were made and three original odes were sung. Mr. Swan's relations with his parish during the term of his ministry—almost nineteen years—were of the most pleasant character. The severing of the connection between pastor and people, so long and so happily maintained, was deeply regretted by both, but disease rendered the step unavoidable. He closed his pastorate June 21, 1869, and took up his residence in Cambridge, Mass., with the hope that a change of location and of



employment might be the means of his restoration to health, but these anticipations were disappointed. He died October 31, 1871. A few years later his widow, Mrs. S. H. Swan, presented the society with their home on High Street for a parsonage as a memorial of her husband.

Rev. Charles C. Vinal, from North Andover, Mass., was installed as pastor of this society April 27, 1870. He still retains this position. He is the seventh pastor over this society in the long term of one hundred and thirty-nine years (1890).

The "Kennebunk Sunday School Society," organized the twelfth of March, 1829, generally called the "Ladies Sewing Circle," has been and now is a helpful auxiliary to the parish, in the performance of Christian work, by its contributions in furtherance of benevolent and worthy objects, "lending a hand" wherever its aid will be promotive of good, regardless of sect and far-reaching in its charities, not confining itself to home needs. The meetings were held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons at the homes of members and friends, the hours being from one o'clock to six in summer and till nine in winter. It seems a little singular that the interest in such a benevolent work should have been allowed to die out, but such was the fact. The enthusiasm of its members began gradually to wane until it was given up altogether during the years 1858 and 1859. Finally the attention of Rev. Mr. Swan was called to it and he, realizing the amount of good this society had done in the past, was instrumental in reviving the interest of the ladies of his parish with the result that it was reorganized February first, 1860, retaining the old name of the "Kennebunk Sunday School Society," but changing the day to Thursday, meeting in homes as previously until January, 1868, when it was voted to gather in the Sunday-school room and omit the meetings from May to October. Socially the organization has been an effective instrument in sustaining friendly feelings among its members, and its bi-monthly meetings are so conducted as to afford rational enjoyment to those who attend them.

Similar societies are maintained in every other parish in the village, and, we think we may safely say, in every parish in the town differing only in the objects to which the moneys obtained are devoted,—being specific rather than general, such as aiding in the support of the minister or of the Sunday-school library,—each in some manner helping onward a praiseworthy work.

The First Parish Library is the largest collection of books, for general reading, in town. Its origin dates far back in the history of the parish; it was not kept as a distinct library, however, but a portion of it was incorporated with the Sunday School Library and the remainder was laid aside unused until Rev. Mr. Swan and the society in general came to realize the benefit it would be to the church as a whole to have a library that would meet their needs. In January, 1862, the ladies of the Sunday School Society "resolved" that the "Parish Library" should be re-established and donated fifty dollars for the purpose. The library contains about twenty-five hundred volumes, increasing at the rate of fully one hundred volumes per year, exclusive of many copies of public documents and bound and unbound magazines which are not embraced in the catalogue. The income of a respectable fund, chiefly derived from bequests of former members of the society, increased by yearly contributions from the Sunday School Society, affords means for adding to it, from time to time, all new publications of merit, as well as desirable selections from catalogues of standard works in the various branches of literature.

The Sunday School Library of the First Parish, now occupying a room at the rear of the Sunday-school hall, is quite large, containing on its shelves some twelve hundred books. This also has a small fund, the income of which is expended in the purchase of new books, besides which, when needed, contributions are always cheerfully made by the parishioners.

We believe there is a good Sunday School Library, both as regards number of volumes and the character of the selections, in every parish in town. Combining instruction and amusement, the usefulness of these libraries is so obvious and they are so thoroughly appreciated by the children that there is no difference of opinion as regards the necessity of their generous maintenance, and calls for pecuniary aid to this end always meet with a hearty response.

#### SECOND CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (ORTHODOX).

As stated in foregoing pages, this society was organized in August, 1826, and held its meetings for religious worship in Union Hall or, as it was styled by the society, "The Union Church Conference Room" until the completion of its meeting-house, in 1829. Daniel Campbell, its first pastor, was ordained in December, 1827, and resigned his pastorate June 10, 1828. The meeting-house now standing on Dane Street (then known as Union Street) was erected

in 1828 and dedicated October seventh, but was not completed until February, 1829. The pews were sold March second and brought satisfactory prices.

Rev. Beriah Green was installed as pastor of the society July 31, 1829. Mr. Green resigned his pastorate September twenty-eighth of the year following, having received the appointment of Professor of Biblical Literature in the Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio, of which Professor Storrs was President. Mr. Green was precisely the man that was needed at the time of his settlement, social, talented, liberal minded, an earnest worker in the faithful discharge of his parochial duties and always prompt to aid any measure designed to elevate the moral condition or advance the educational interests of the community, or, indeed, whatever tended to uplift men from the degradation caused by evil habits or principles adverse to the welfare of society.

Rev. Joseph Fuller was ordained as pastor over the church and society on Wednesday, September 29, 1830. Mr. Fuller was dismissed July 16, 1834,<sup>1</sup> and was succeeded by Rev. Josiah W. Powers, who was installed as pastor November eighth of the same year. Mr. Powers remained with the society until August 27, 1837, when he was dismissed. He died in Putnam, Muskingum County, Ohio, March 31, 1840, while employed as agent of the American Bible Society. "He was desirous of obtaining a settlement in New England favorable to his health, but finding none, engaged in the service of the Bible Society," and made the choice of Ohio as his field of labor.

Rev. George W. Cressey, the next settled minister, was ordained as pastor July 9, 1840. Mr. Cressey dissolved his connection with the society November 12, 1851. Rev. William H. Wilcox succeeded Mr. Cressey. He was installed March 4, 1852, and remained with the society until June 8, 1857. J. Evarts Pond supplied the pulpit from June to October, and Granville Wardwell from December to April of the following year. Franklin E. Fellows was ordained in December, 1858, and dismissed in November, 1865. Rev. Walter E. Darling was installed as pastor March 20, 1866, and his connection with the society was dissolved the ninth of November, 1876, not long after which date he was installed as pastor of the Congregational Church and Society in Farmington, N. H., where he remained until 1888, when ill health compelled him to resign his

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Fuller was installed pastor of the Congregational Church and Society in Brimfield, Mass., March 11, 1835.



charge. For several years after the dismissal of Mr. Darling the church was without a settled minister, Rev. William F. Obear and Rev. L. F. Ferris filling the pulpit as supplies. A call was extended to Rev. George A. Lockwood on March 29, 1879, to become its pastor, but the installation did not take place until a year later, March 20, 1880. He retains the position to the present date, 1890.

In 1853 the interior of the church was improved by the removal of its high pulpit and galleries. In 1860 a chapel, neat and commodious, was erected in the immediate vicinity of the church, where its social meetings have since been held. The parsonage, on Main Street, was purchased by the society in 1866. Extensive alterations were made on the church building in 1869, when a new spire and vestibule were erected. An addition in the rear for the organ and choir was made, the windows were enlarged and the building was repainted, while the interior improvements consisted of new furnishings, including pulpit, pews, organ and furniture.

#### CALVINIST BAPTIST SOCIETY (ALEWIVE).

The first society holding the tenets of this religious denomination in Kennebunk was organized at Alewife in 1803. It was composed of persons who had withdrawn from the village society, of several families who lived across the river (on the eastern side of Kennebunk River, in the town of Kennebunkport), and of a few persons belonging to the southern part of Lyman. Most of the members who left the village society were influenced by a desire to worship according to the dictates of their own conscience. There were others, whose views did not accord with the peculiar religious sentiments of the majority, who united with them in this movement because they wished to attend public religious services regularly, but lived so far from the village that it was inconvenient, often impracticable, for them to do so. Rev. Joshua Roberts was the first settled minister over this society, who continued his labors there, acceptably and usefully, nearly thirty years. The church consisted of fifteen members when constituted and at the date of Mr. Roberts's resignation had a membership of sixty-three.

Rev. Samuel Robbins was the next pastor, his installation taking place on the fifth of June, 1833. All the services on the occasion were interesting; the music was excellent, the audience large, attentive and gratified. Mr. Robbins remained one year only. We do not know why it was that his ministerial labors here were of so short duration; apparently he commenced them under the most favorable

circumstances. There were no religious services here for about a year following the withdrawal of Mr. Robbins. Rev. Shubael Tripp was the pastor of this church and society from 1835 to 1837, in which year he died. After Mr. Tripp's decease there was no settled minister and we think no regular Sunday services until 1838, when Charles Emerson officiated as pastor; he was succeeded in 1839 by Elias McGregor, who was succeeded in 1840 by John Hubbard, who was dismissed in 1842 and was succeeded by Gideon Cook, who remained until February, 1843, when he became pastor of the village church. About 1841 a Calvinist Baptist Society was formed in Lyman and the Alewife society suffered the loss of several members who lived within the limits of the new organization. Far from being in a flourishing condition before, the loss of members and procuring aid rendered the society weak indeed; it was regarded as impracticable longer to maintain religious services, and in accordance with a vote of the parish the meeting-house, which was probably an uncomfortable and dilapidated building, was taken down and the society temporarily disbanded.

For a number of years prior to the movements narrated above, there had been several families of Freewill Baptists in the neighborhood, who had frequently held meetings in district schoolhouses or in the dwellings of those who were adherents of this religious faith. They, as well as their Calvinistic neighbors, were without a house of worship; both sadly needed one; both served one Master. The only trouble appeared to be that one party desired to travel in the old pathway laid out by Roger Williams, while the other thought that the new way, built by Benjamin Randall, was altogether the pleasantest and best. Wise counsels prevailed. A union of the two sects, on equitable terms, was proposed and favorably received. A house for public worship was erected in 1847, on a delightful location, the site of the former structure. It was agreed that a clergyman of the Calvinistic faith should supply the pulpit one year, and that the following year religious services should be performed by a clergyman of the Freewill Baptist denomination. The union, so judiciously formed, has been successfully and harmoniously continued to the present time. Several families from that part of Kennebunkport which adjoins the Alewives attend and contribute to the support of the religious services held here. The parish embraces dwellers on probably the best sections of farming land in either town, which are well and profitably cultivated by men of sterling worth and pecuniarily independent.

A Calvinist Baptist Church, to be known as the "Village Church," was constituted, with the usual public exercises, at Washington Hall, July 16, 1834. The church and society held their meetings in this hall until their meeting-house was completed. In the autumn of 1834 they fortunately obtained the services of Thomas O. Lincoln (son of Mr. Lincoln of the bookselling and publishing firm of Lincoln & Edmunds, of Boston), then recently from the Theological School at Newton, Mass. He was a young man of fine talents, an interesting speaker, of pleasing address, and was both popular and effective as a minister. He was ordained over the church and society on Wednesday, December 10, 1834, the services being held in the Unitarian meeting-house. In December, 1836, Mr. Lincoln received and accepted a call from the Free Street Baptist Church in Portland to become its pastor.

The corner-stone of the Baptist Church in the village was laid, in the presence of quite a number of its citizens, Wednesday afternoon, May 27, 1840, with religious ceremonies; remarks by a member of the society, prayer by Rev. Mr. Harris, singing, benediction. Beneath the stone was placed a lead box containing late numbers of several of the newspapers and periodicals of the day, a list of the workmen employed on the building, etc., etc. The building was completed and paid for, at a cost of about four thousand dollars, prior to October 15, 1840, in the forenoon of which day it was dedicated with appropriate religious exercises, and in the afternoon Rev. Mr. Harris was ordained. In February, 1842, Mr. Harris was succeeded by Rev. Gideon Cook, who continued pastor until September, 1843; his successor was Rev. Amaziah Joy, whose pastorate continued from October 1, 1843, until December, 1845; he was succeeded by Rev. John Boyce, who labored from May, 1846, to April, 1849. From this time the church had no settled pastor until May, 1854, when Rev. Lewis Barrows commenced his labors, which were closed in October, 1855. During these interruptions of pastoral service Rev. Messrs. Wheeler, Kendall, Butler, Pease and others preached more or less. The Rev. Edmund Worth, the late pastor, commenced his labors in June, 1856.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Worth resigned his position in June, 1889, after a continuous pastorate of thirty-three years. Although remarkably active for one of his age and with mental faculties unimpaired, Mr. Worth felt that the infirmities incident to advanced years were rendering his pastoral labors more burdensome than in time past and that prudence dictated the course

<sup>1</sup>Correspondent of "Pythian Times."



he resolved to adopt, a relinquishment of his pastorate, a pastorate, we think we may safely say, well enjoyed during all these years by a united society and a devoted pastor, and which was by both unwillingly but necessarily sundered.

Alterations were made on the church building in 1865 by which it was much improved, at a cost of about fourteen hundred dollars, and a chapel was erected near by in 1873, which with its furniture cost about nine hundred and fifty dollars. Ralph Curtis, Palmer Walker, Parker Hall and Oliver Littlefield were prominent in the organization of this society. Mr. Walker held the offices of deacon and clerk forty-four years, from the date of its organization until his death, in 1878. His interest in the church never slackened; by his will he gave to it his library, several pews in the meeting-house and one thousand dollars to be held by the parish as a fund, the interest of which was to be annually expended to aid in the support of preaching.

#### METHODIST SOCIETIES.

It is believed that the first Methodist meeting in the vicinity of Kennebunk was held in 1816. The preacher was Rev. Robert Hayes, a young man of ability, who came here by invitation of the late Capt. Isaac Downing and delivered a sermon before a small audience assembled in a room in the dwelling-house of Captain Downing's father, in Kennebunkport, very near the boundary line between Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. We know little concerning the progress of the sect for several years,—the encouraging or discouraging circumstances attending the efforts of its advocates. In this town the first class, of six members, was formed by John Adams in 1818, and from that time, we are told, "there has always been a Methodist meeting in the vicinity." Not long afterward a meeting-house was erected in Lower Alewife, on or very near the spot whereon the barn of Charles Smith now stands, then on land belonging to Benjamin Day. A few years later the building was moved to a lot given them by Nathaniel Smith, Senior, on the road leading from the bridge to the highway passing through Lower and Upper Alewife; here it stood several years, when, for some reason, the society determined to abandon it<sup>1</sup> and build another. Accordingly a very neat structure was erected a short distance above that

<sup>1</sup> This building was purchased by the late Isaac Burnham and removed to the triangular lot formed by the two ways leading from the bridge to the main road, where it was fitted up for a dwelling-house, which from time to time has received additions and improvements.

which had been vacated, just opposite the "John Walker house," now Joshua Russell's, where the society worshiped many years. Diminishing in numbers, however, it was found impracticable to sustain public worship therein, and a few years ago it was taken down.

#### METHODIST SOCIETY IN THE VILLAGE.<sup>1</sup>

The first Conference appointment at the village was in 1853, when Ezekiel Smith preached in what was then known as "York Hall," owned by Benaiah Littlefield. Its membership was thirty-three. Mr. Smith was reappointed in 1854; in 1855-56 John Cobb preached in Washington Hall; in 1857-58 Rufus H. Stinchfield preached. During his pastorate, and through his untiring efforts, the very neat edifice occupied by the society was built; it was dedicated July 28, 1858; its cost was four thousand dollars. Since the date above named a vestry has been added to it and other improvements made. The pastors since 1858 have been: Silas H. Hyde, 1859; A. R. Sylvester, 1860; T. H. Griffin, 1861. Charles Nason was appointed to this position in 1862. After preaching three months he was chosen captain of a company belonging to the Eighth Maine Regiment, which office he accepted. John M. Caldwell succeeded him and was pastor for the remainder of the year and for the years 1863 and 1864. "Although Mr. Caldwell took one from the church—Emma, daughter of Capt. Abram Hill—to share with him the lights and shadows of the itineracy, we look upon his labors as the most successful of any during our recollection." The appointments to this society since 1864 have been: S. Roy, 1865; Stephen Allen, 1866; John Collins, 1867-68; George W. Ballou, 1869; John A. Strout, 1870-72; William H. Foster, 1873; Gershom F. Cobb, 1874-76; John M. Woodbury, 1877-78; John Cobb, 1879-81; T. P. Adams, 1882-84; C. F. Parsons, 1885-87; F. A. Bragdon, 1888-90.

"Owen E. Burnham has been class leader from the date of the organization of the society, and by his faithfulness for more than a quarter of a century has won the respect of all under his care."

In 1864 Miss Sarah, daughter of the late Capt. James Burnham, of Kennebunkport, died, and by her will gave to this society her house and lot on Dane Street for a parsonage; it is now improved as such.

<sup>1</sup> We gather the facts here stated in reference to this society from an article prepared by one of its members for the "Pythian Times," published by "Mystic Lodge, No. 19, K. of P., in connection with the Fair held upon the occasion of their first anniversary," May 5, 1880.

A Methodist meeting-house was built on Saco Road, Kennebunkport, in 1819. We can learn very little of the early history of the society by which it was erected. It was not a costly building. The (at that time) few Methodists in Kennebunk Village and portions of the town nearer the seashore attended meeting there frequently, perhaps regularly, for a few years. We learn from Bradbury's History that the first Methodist sermon in Maine was preached by Elder Jesse Lee, of Virginia, at Saco, in 1791. In 1797 Maine, which had previously belonged to the Boston district, was formed into a district by itself and in 1806 was divided into two districts, Portland and Kennebec. The first class in Kennebunkport was formed in 1814 by Elder Leonard Bennet. The "Arundel Circuit," embracing Arundel (Kennebunkport), Lyman, Hollis and Biddeford, was formed in 1820. The Saco Road meeting-house was burned many years ago. A new one, a small but convenient building, was built not long afterward on a lot near the site of the old one. We think this has never been what might be termed a flourishing organization, but determined spirits have always been foremost in its management and have been able to maintain religious services there a large part of the time. For several years past and at the present time the minister in charge of the Kennebunk Village Society holds services there in the forenoon of each Sunday.

The eccentric Lorenzo Dow preached in the old house one week day afternoon about 1822. It was said that the appointment for this meeting, day and hour (two P. M.), was made full eleven months previously. He stepped into the pulpit just one minute before the time designated. The house was filled to its utmost capacity. The usual preliminary exercises were followed by a characteristic sermon, a prayer, and then a very long hymn was given out. While the audience was listening to the choir, Lorenzo, dispensing with the benediction, made his exit through a window which opened from the pulpit, walked to the spot where his horse had been hitched, jumped into his wagon, and was on his way to Saco before the congregation discovered that he had taken his departure.

#### EASTERN DEPOT, NOW WEST KENNEBUNK.

When, in 1844, the managers of the Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad Company determined to establish a depot at a point between Mitchell's Mill and the old "Middle Mill Privilege," there were very few inhabitants or industries in that vicinity. Samuel Mitchell, the first depot master, soon after the road was in run-



ning order, built a large dwelling-house near and south of the track, and near and north of it a large store, which he stocked with general merchandise. Thenceforward the vicinity steadily increased in population, buildings and business enterprises. A new school district was formed and a comfortable schoolhouse made ready for occupancy. And then the inhabitants arrived at the conclusion that they needed a house for public worship. It is apparent that a majority of the old residents, as well as of the then recent incomers, were Methodists, and a society holding the tenets of this denomination of Christians was organized without difficulty. A neat and commodious church was built in 1868 and was dedicated on the twenty-third day of September in that year. A church, consisting of twenty-five members, was also consecrated. Rev. Israel Downing, to whom it appears to be generally conceded much credit is due for his efforts in aid of the formation of the society and church, was the first minister. The Sunday school belonging to this society is in a prosperous condition. It has a good library. Both the school and the library are well cared for, creditable to the district.

#### FREEWILL BAPTISTS.

The Freewill Baptists held meetings occasionally, in the village and its vicinity, in private dwellings or in the open air, as early as 1814, and thereafter up to the time of the Cochrane excitement, when they thought it prudent to retire from the field. From 1821 to 1824 — while "Buzzell's Hymn Book" was in press and his "Religious Magazine" was published (quarterly) Elder Buzzell was frequently in town, as well as other prominent ministers of the denomination, who were occasional visitors and tarried here for a day or two — the meetings were resumed, and were sometimes held in private dwellings, but generally in the old Washington Hall.

During the time the first cotton factory was in operation meetings were held by ministers of the "Christian Connection" (seceders, we think, from the Freewill Baptists, who accepted the doctrine of the Trinity, while the seceders rejected it, and perhaps other differences in religious views) regularly on Sundays and evenings of specified week days; these were well attended. On the suspension of the factory many of the operatives left town, and as they were, chiefly, the supporters and attendants of the religious services it was found necessary to discontinue them. The society was not incorporated; among its members were men and women of sterling worth, and the pulpit was supplied by ministers of respectable talents.

Another society, composed of persons holding the peculiar faith of the "Christian Connection," was organized in the Port district or "Lower Village" January 28, 1833, which was prosperous for several years. A meeting house was built by subscription, shortly after its organization, on the western side of the hill opposite what is known as the "Jonas Merrill place." This was abandoned, however, not long after the promulgation of the Advent doctrine, which found so many hearty believers among those who had worshiped there that it was impracticable to maintain religious services. The house was closed for several years. The building came into possession of individuals at the Landing, by whom, in 1868, it was removed to a central situation in that district. It is a free or union meeting-house, open to all religious denominations, but has been improved chiefly by the Methodists, who hold religious services there quite regularly.

About the year 1847 the seceders formed themselves into a separate society, Rev. Edwin Burnham, who was formerly pastor of the Christian Connection Society, preaching to this body from time to time, as occasion offered, in private dwellings. Soon after this separation, however, a small house was procured and located on the Wells road, a short distance from Cousens's Corner. This served as a place of worship until 1853, when the present neat building occupied by the Advent Society was erected. We are informed that the most flourishing period in the history of this church was when its pulpit was supplied with transient preaching. Its pastors have been Dr. Cummings, W. C. Stewart, W. H. Mitchell, E. H. Long, O. H. Wallace and H. H. Brown, the present pastor, the longest pastorate being that of O. H. Wallace, which was four years. Its present membership is about forty.

## CHAPTER IV.

### RESIDENCES AND BUILDINGS—MAIN, STORER AND FLETCHER STREETS, 1820 TO 1890.

During the years that have intervened since 1820 we note in the pages that follow the many changes that have taken place in the business and residential portions of the town. Some of the buildings erected far anterior to the separation of Kennebunk from Wells are still standing to-day.

Beginning at the Mousam River Bridge and passing up Main Street, the first building we find standing was put up by Daniel Whitney in 1810. This is now the residence of Miss Emily Wise. The next building is the Michael Wise house, which is much older, having been erected by him in 1792, in which year he was married to Hannah Kimball, a descendant of the early settler, Nathaniel. Wise improved the eastern half of the lower floor of the dwelling-house as a country store for a year or two; he purchased a store lot of the Storer's the same year that the dwelling was erected, but the store was not built until the next year, when he vacated the room in the house. It was occupied by Joseph Thomas as a lawyer's office. He continued its tenant several years, until Wise's family had so increased that he could no longer rent it. Thomas then removed to a small building which stood on the lot now occupied by Littlefield's carpenter shop, where he practiced law until within a year of his death (1830). Wise was an active, enterprising man; he was in partnership awhile with his nephew, John Grant, Jr., afterward with his son, William W. Wise; he owned at one time the Taylor farm on Cat Mousam Road, now the property of George T. Jones. Wise died in 1833, at the age of sixty-seven years. His widow married Jeremiah Paul, who purchased the Wise homestead, which is now in possession of one of Paul's descendants. The store was sold to H. K. Sargent and improved by him and his son, Jefferson W., as a wheelwright's shop, and subsequently by George P. Lowell as a restaurant and confectionery manufactory and salesroom. It was destroyed by fire April 30, 1881. The lot on which it stood together with that covered by the adjoining building, known as



"Smith's Bake House," is now covered with the "Sargent-Ross" block, in which is the post office, Ross & Co.'s apothecary store, telegraph office and several other offices and shops.

The next lot, where stands the dwelling-house owned and occupied by Frank M. Ross, was purchased of the Storers, by one Peter Cross, about 1786, but for some cause was conveyed back to them. In 1799 the Storers sold this lot, which then embraced the present house and store lots and so much of the street as lies adjacent to them, to Phineas Cole, who erected thereon the dwelling-house just named, the building afterward known as Smith's Bake House and an extensive tannery establishment, comprising beam house, bark house, vats, etc., etc. To what use this store building was put we are not sure, perhaps as a storeroom for leather and a shoemaker's shop, or as a bake house for Benjamin Smith, or for all these uses. Cole left town in 1804; the house and store were purchased by Smith, and the tannery establishment by Joseph Curtis. Curtis died in 1809; in November of that year Edmund Pierson (from Exeter, N. H.,) advertised that he had "taken the tanyard lately occupied by Joseph Curtis on Scotchman's Brook." Pierson removed to the west side of Mousam River in October, 1811. Ralph Curtis became owner of the tannery and carried it on many years. This property is now in possession of his heirs. No signs of the old tannery exist. Plots of grass ground and neat dwelling-houses are now seen where, in the olden time, beam and bark houses and vats were the objects that met the eye. Cole was the first tanner in the village; the Shackleys, John and Samuel, on the Ross road and Eliphalet Walker at Alewife preceded him by many years.

Adjoining, in old time, the Cole house was Pomfret Howard's. He purchased the lot (originally half an acre) in July, 1788, and forthwith erected a dwelling-house, barn, etc., and these completed opened a public house. He was a hatter and whether he united this business with that of innkeeper is not known. He kept a very well-managed and respectable house, but Jefferds's and Barnard's were well-known and excellent inns, so that Howard did not receive the amount of patronage he had anticipated and by-and-by became embarrassed. He sold his establishment (which included eleven and one-half acres of pasture land adjoining the homestead, bought by Howard of Jacob Wakefield) to Joseph Barnard, a relative by marriage, by whom it was held during his lifetime. Howard removed to Alfred in 1802; here, too, he was unsuccessful and was compelled to mortgage his real estate, the right of redemption of which was

sold in 1823. Thomas Folsom succeeded Howard in the occupancy of the Kennebunk property. Folsom was a jeweler and carried on business in the room fitted up by Dr. Rice as an apothecary shop. He also kept boarders. He removed to Portland in December, 1809.

Stephen Thacher succeeded Folsom in the Howard house. Thacher came here about 1803 and opened a store in the Joseph Parsons building (now William Fairfield's). He purchased land on the Sanford road, near the "Parson Little place" (the dwelling-house which he occupied from 1804 to 1809), built barns thereon, employed a man to cultivate his acres and perform all necessary farm work; his specialty was the raising of merino sheep, of which we have spoken elsewhere in this volume. In 1809 Mr. Thacher took up his residence in the Howard house. He was postmaster several years, a part of which time he kept the office in the southerly corner of his dwelling; he was also judge of probate, succeeding Jonas Clark. To all these employments—trader, amateur farmer, postmaster and judge of probate—he added that of teacher of a private school, which was kept in the parlor of the house; the number of pupils was limited; it was conducted on the monitorial plan and was an excellent and well-patronized school. Among the scholars were the two daughters of John Holmes, of Alfred, a son of Dr. Thornton, of Saco, and two or three young men from Wells. Mr. Thacher removed from this town to Lubec in 1818, having received the appointment of collector of customs at that port. Mr. Thacher was a graduate of Yale College, a good scholar and an energetic man; he was an active politician of the Democratic school. He married Harriet Preble, of York, in 1804, by whom he had several children, sons and daughters. Peter Thacher, counselor at law in Boston, is a son of Judge Thacher.

William Safford succeeded Mr. Thacher in the occupancy of the Howard house, which he purchased and in which he lived many years, until his death. His daughter, Mrs. Herrick, continued living there for awhile when she was succeeded by Woodbury A. Hall, who is the present owner and occupant of the estate.

Adjoining Howard's was the Brown house, built by Benjamin Brown in 1784, where he kept a country store on the lower floor of the eastern half part. The small building next to this (Mrs. Bryant's), was originally designed for a carriage house, as is generally believed. Old residents, however, stoutly denied that such was the intention of the builder; some alleged that the carriages were kept in the barn

in the rear of the house; others, that it was used as a store and still others, that it was built for the accommodation of an employee and his family. It is a matter of trifling importance, but we should be inclined to adopt the view of those who oppose the carriage-house theory. There was formerly a hillock, commencing nearly opposite the small house and extending to Dr. Ross's line. It was plowed down by Mr. Fiske, while he was surveyor of the highway, about 1827, leaving the Brown and Howard house some feet above the level of the street.

Mr. Brown left town in 1796 and died in 1802. The property then fell into the possession of Jacob Fisher, who married Brown's daughter (1786). Both houses were occupied at different times by several different tenants. In the small house David Lord, a shoemaker, a poor but worthy man, lived many years. He left town in 1824. Dr. Fisher advertised the house to let the same year: "Cellar and arches, a shed adjoining for a washing room and wood-house, and a shop under the same roof with a fireplace, suitable for a shoemaker or tailor." Fisher died in 1840, and this estate was sold the same year. Oliver Littlefield was the purchaser of the large house and Abel M. Bryant of the small. Littlefield continued the excavation from the level of the road, as Mr. Fiske left it, to and about halfway under his house, thereby giving the building a front of three stories, and gaining two large and convenient rooms and a hall. The property was purchased subsequently by Edward E. Bourne, Jr., who dwelt there until his removal to the small house. His son Herbert improved the eastern half part as a dwelling-house and a lawyer's office for a time, and another son, George, improved the western half part as a dwelling and a physician's office for a few years.

On the lots on which now stand the dwelling-house belonging to Richard Littlefield, afterward sold to Solomon Reckord, and the house owned by Mr. Tobias S. Nason, hauled there many years ago and occupied by James Larrabee, by whom it was sold to Horace Porter and occupied awhile by his son-in-law, George W. Hardy, afterward sold to Nason, by whom it was enlarged and improved, the Baptist church and vestry, and the parsonage house of the Second Congregational Society, which was built by Samuel Mitchell and occupied by him until his removal to the Eastern Depot, by him sold to Joseph Dane, Jr., who resided there awhile, and sold by him to the above-named society,—on the land now divided into these several lots, in 1820 there were only two buildings, the law office of George W. Wallingford, now a tenement house on Water



Street, and a dwelling-house built by John H. Bartlett, which was sold by his heirs to Loammi N. Kimball and removed to the avenue now called Bourne Street.

Next is the "Long House," as it was in former days designated. The land on which it stands was purchased, in 1788, of James Kimball by Benjamin Brown, who sold it in 1793 to William Jefferds and Stephen Tucker, together with the dwelling-house standing thereon. The main building, therefore, was built by Brown between the years 1788 and 1796. Tucker took possession at once of the western half part and added an L for a tailor's shop, a part of which is now standing in its original position and a part has been removed to the rear of the house and is used as a shed. Jefferds and Tucker, jointly, built a barn. Jefferds held his moiety three years, during a portion of which time Samuel Emerson lived there. Jefferds deeded his part to Capt. John Grant, January 1, 1799. A story and a half L was added by Captain Grant which, at different times, was occupied by Miss Anna Grant as a private schoolroom, and by the Misses Sarah and Anna Grant as a millinery store. Grant's half part of the main house was sold by his heirs to N. L. Thompson. Norris N. Wiggin purchased the L part and moved it to or near the Currier-Nason house lot on the old Saco road, which he owned. The western moiety was sold by Tucker's heirs to Richard C. Raynes and occupied for many years by his widow. Mr. Tucker was much respected; he was of a lively temperament, always ready to give a joke or make a repartee. He was an amateur gardener and was very successful in the cultivation of vegetables. Probably up to his time his garden had been unequalled in this vicinity for extent as well as the excellence of its management. He was, without doubt, the first person in town to raise early vegetables and plants for the market.

Capt. Abraham Hill's house was built later than 1820 by Mrs. Abigail Grant.

The next lot, now owned and occupied by Nathan Dane, Jr., is one of considerable historic interest. It was improved at an early day—several years prior to 1750—by Thomas Cousens, a son of the pioneer Ichabod, who built a small house on the westerly corner of the lot. It was probably of little value. Theodore Lyman built a store near the center of the lot, about 1770, and traded there several years. He was a buyer and seller of real estate in the vicinity (although he never owned the lot on which his store was located), and was largely concerned, for the time, in navigation and in buying

and selling lumber. The five large elms in front of Mr. Dane's and Mrs. Hilton's houses were set out, when so small as to be handled by one person, by Mr. Lyman and James Kimball, who was the owner of the land, on the nineteenth day of April, 1775, the day so memorable in our national history. Mr. Lyman removed to the Landing in 1776 or 1777. The store building was sold to William Taylor, and by him moved on to "the Hill"; it occupied part of the lot on which Hartley Lord's house stands. Nathaniel Frost purchased the lot (of the same dimensions as at present) in March, 1799, and erected the same year the house now standing there. Shortly after he built a store near his dwelling-house, occupying very nearly the lot on which Thomas Cousens's house stood. The partnership between Frost and William Hackett was dissolved in 1809, the latter continuing the business at the old stand, and the former, in his new building, opening a store for the sale of general merchandise, also drugs and medicines. Frost died in 1817, and since that date the store has had many different occupants. Daniel Sewall had an office there, Moses Varney a shoe shop and salesroom, Edward Gould a hatter's shop and salesroom, Aaron Greene a schoolroom, and no doubt others occupied it. It was purchased by Charles Herrick, moved to the eastern side of Fletcher Street, and occupied by him as a shoe shop, later by a marble worker, and afterward by Charles C. Perkins as a provision store. The building was moved to the western side of the street in 1887.

Nathaniel Frost came to this town about 1790 and opened a country store at the lower end of the village, near the mills; he was genial, active and enterprising, and soon became a popular, useful and enterprising citizen. He built the store opposite the First Parish Meeting-house about 1793 and the dwelling-house on the Lyman lot in 1799, in which year he was married to Abigail, daughter of James Kimball. He was prominent in military affairs and was an excellent officer. After his death his widow removed to Cambridge, Mass. The children of Nathaniel and Abigail Frost were: John, graduated at Harvard, 1822; Nathaniel, who studied divinity, was a chaplain in the United States Navy and died while holding this position; Cyrus, who was an engraver on wood and became a resident of Philadelphia; Sarah Elizabeth, who never married; Mary Ann, who married a Captain Dow, of Keene, N. H., a gentleman of considerable wealth.

The Frost house was occupied by Thomas Drew a few years and he was succeeded by William B. Sewall. The estate was sold

in 1818 to Joseph Storer, and was occupied by his brother-in-law, Charles Cutts, then Secretary of the United States Senate, until his removal to New Hampshire. Storer, in 1832, sold the property to Isaac Lord, of Effingham, N. H., and it was occupied by his son James until his removal to Massachusetts. Lord sold to Noah Nason; subsequently Nason sold to Nicholas E. Smart and his son-in-law, William Simonds; later the property was devised by Mrs. N. E. Smart to the present proprietor.

The dwelling-house on the adjoining lot was built in 1795, by James Kimball, Jr. (Kimball married Sarah Kimball in 1796 and Sally Goodwin, of Somersworth, N. H., in 1810.) He resided there until 1815, when he sold it to Joseph Dane, Sr., who occupied it thenceforth until his death; his widow resided there until her death, in 1872. It was subsequently purchased by Mr. Hartley Lord and occupied by Mrs. Isaac Hilton, and has been greatly improved in outward appearance. In a preceding chapter we have given some interesting details respecting this house, the store on the corner of Main and Dane Streets and the blacksmith's shop which formerly stood in the rear of the store lot.

The next building was moved to its present location by John Roberts, who purchased it of Samuel Clark and removed it from the vicinity of the bridge, where it had been occupied by Charles A. Condry as a country store.

Next to this is the building erected by Enoch Hardy in 1810. The upper and part of the lower floor were improved by him as a tobacco manufactory for many years. Davenport Tucker, son of Stephen, kept a country store on part of the lower floor from 1810 to 1818; he disposed of his stock in trade, at auction, in the spring of the year last named and removed to Lubec, having been appointed by Mr. Thacher to a position in the custom house there. Owen Burnham occupied the store after the building he had tenanted on the opposite side of the street had been burned, in 1824; he vacated it a few years afterward, when it was improved by the owner as a salesroom for his manufactures, and, in connection with his son, Enoch, Jr., for the sale of groceries. The post office was kept in this room two or three years, George W. Hardy, postmaster. The building was purchased by Andrew Walker, in 1857, and occupied by him, chiefly as a furniture store, until 1888, when he gave it to the Free Library Association.

The brick building on the adjoining lot was erected by William Lord in 1825. It has had many different occupants: Lord &



Kingsbury (William Lord and Henry Kingsbury), William C. and William F. Lord, William C. Lord and George Ross, Simon L. Whitten, as a tailor's shop and salesroom; James N. Nason, country store, and Tobias G. Nason & Co. The upper floor was occupied (in part) by Increase G. Kimball, as a lawyer's office, when he commenced practice as an attorney; he remained there a few months only. The Salus Lodge of Good Templars has held its meetings there a number of years. The present owners of the building are William E. and Charles E. Barry, grandchildren of the builder.

The next building was erected by Nathaniel Frost about 1793 and was occupied by him as a country store; later by Frost & Hackett (Nathaniel Frost and William Hackett). This copartnership was dissolved in 1809, when Frost commenced trade in his new store. Hackett continued at the old stand; he also engaged in navigation at this time. Later he removed to Limerick and opened a store in the village, where he was very successful; he had a good local trade, bought large quantities of lumber, grain and products of the dairy, which he sent by ox-teams to Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, and disposed of readily at satisfactory prices. He retired from business and returned to Kennebunk in 1837, occupying the Taylor house on Green Street, then the Hardy house on Summer Street, which he purchased and afterward sold to Capt. William Williams; he then purchased the Greenough house, on the corner of Park and Dane Streets, which he occupied until the time of his death. Mr. Hackett married Lydia Dutch. He died in 1864 and was buried with Masonic honors. He was an upright man, a good citizen, a well-wisher to all, an enemy to none. Few men pass away from the earth leaving a more enviable record than did Mr. Hackett. He left three children: William, who was a grocer in Worcester, Mass., Nancy, wife of N. L. Thompson (both now deceased), and Mary Hudson, who survives.

Shortly after the store was vacated by Mr. Hackett, in 1831, it was opened by James K. Remich with a stock of books, stationery and wall papers, which he sold at retail and wholesale, the first of this description in Kennebunk. He relinquished this branch of his business in 1842, when the stand was taken by Daniel Remich, and the business was continued by him until 1868, when he sold his stock in trade to George W. Oakes, who was succeeded by Mrs. Oakes, then by Mrs. Elizabeth Chesley, and she by William H. Simonds & Co., crockery and groceries, who remained there but a year or two. The upper floor was not occupied until 1809, when it

was leased to James K. Remich, and by him improved as a printing office from that date until 1850; the printing apparatus was not entirely removed from the room until 1880. From 1794 until 1809 this room was occasionally used as a hall for public entertainments. During this period one Joseph Baker usually made annual visits to the village, remaining here five or six weeks each time, giving two or three exhibitions of legerdemain as well as readings, serious, tragic and comic. He was accustomed, at each of these visits, to form a class of gentlemen, select a play acceptable to its members, and drill them to "act well their parts" in its public performance, the net receipts derived from the exhibition inuring to the benefit of Mr. Baker. These plays were extremely popular, well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. James Osborn, Sr., once related to the author the following amusing incident: According to the programme on one of these occasions, at a certain point in the play one of the *dramatis personæ* (Mr. O.) was killed at the finale of an angry colloquy. As he fell, the curtain fell also, but owing to an error in judgment in regard to the positions of the actors Mr. O. was outside the curtain. Discovering this untoward occurrence, he gained the inside of the screen with a celerity of movement which, considering he had so recently fallen a victim to the murderous act of his enemy, drew forth unbounded applause from the auditors. "Ah," said the old gentleman in conclusion, "those were happy, happy days." Mr. Remich sold the building in 1889 to Sidney T. Fuller, who converted it into a double tenement.

The next store was built by Palmer Walker in 1818. The upper and a part of the lower floor were used by him for a saddler's shop and a salesroom. The store on the lower floor was first occupied by Joseph M. Hayes, dry goods, who removed to Saco, afterward by Lord & Kingsbury, and later by Joseph G. Moody. The building subsequently became the property of Andrew Walker, who lessened somewhat the dimensions of the store and converted the remainder into two tenements.

We come now to the eastern end of Main Street and to the entrance to Green Street. This was laid out about 1800 by William Taylor, who built at the same time the dwelling-house now owned by the heirs of Lemuel Richards. Taylor lived there a few years, as did Timothy Frost, Barnabas Palmer, Asa Taylor, William Hackett, Beriah Green, Robert Smith (machinist) and perhaps others. Dr. Richards finally became its owner. The house on the eastern side of this street, for many years in possession of Phineas

Stevens and now of his heirs, we think was built at a later date than 1820, by Samuel B. Lord. Jacob Stewart's house, near to it, was moved there within recent years and was the Jacob Kimball house on Portland Street.

We now turn back and standing on the spot where, in 1679, the "lot layers" of Wells commenced the work of laying out a highway, six rods wide, above the boom belonging to the Mousam Mills and at "a stake drove down there near to a little old house upon the said land" (built by Sayward less than ten years previously near the location of Mrs. J. W. Sargent's house), and so down by the mills to Rand's Marsh, we note the changes up to 1820. No traces of that boom nor of these mills are to be found. The precise points at which the river was crossed, by the old or new "wading places," cannot be shown. A short distance down river a good bridge is seen, in close proximity to which, northerly, stands a large, old-style saw-mill, and across the bridge, southerly, a well-appointed, old-style grist-mill. Turning around, we notice, on the northeastern side of the road laid out in 1692, from Coxhall to old Mousam, "for the conveniency to transport to the salt water," two dwelling-houses, the larger considered a palatial residence when erected, about 1760, and two or three rods beyond the smaller building, erected in 1757 for a dwelling-house and store, both built by Joseph Storer, Sr. Opposite the mansion house, across the road, was a large orchard. It is said there was a dwelling-house, which stood nearly opposite Mechanic Street, that had been hauled from the vicinity of Middle Mousam Mills, which was occupied by Nathaniel and Anthony Littlefield, employees of Storer. Beyond this, as far up as the junction of the new road with the old, leading to the interior, there were no buildings. At present, the entire length of the road, within the bounds that we have been considering, is well lined with handsome residences, besides which two short streets, running from Storer Street (the old road) transversely to the river, afford building lots upon which neat and commodious dwellings have been erected.

Moving from the standpoint above named, we cross the Coxhall-Mousam road and pass along that leading from the old "Mousam Mill Pond, as the road now goes (1765), down to the country road at the Heath (Landing), four rods wide from the mill road to the country road."

The house on Garden Street occupied for many years by Dr. Orin Ross and later by his widow was built about 1800 by William



Gillpatrick. He kept a stock of general merchandise in the Richard Gillpatrick store.

Standing on the adjoining lot was the Capt. John Grant store, erected about 1785. Grant traded there several years, when the building was finally removed to Water Street, where it was improved as a tenement house. John Cobby built the store now standing on the Grant lot. Norris N. Wiggin was its first occupant. He traded there for two or three years in general merchandise. Cobby succeeded him, continuing in trade until his death. George P. Lowell occupied the building for a time as a confectionery store and bakery. Later it was again used as a meat market and general provisions.

The building now occupied by William Fairfield was erected by Joseph Parsons as early as 1797, perhaps a year or two prior to this date. We find no other reference to him than that he built this house and store under one roof and at one time was a trader here. We may infer that he had a family from the manner in which the building was constructed, arranged for a dwelling on the upper and a store on the lower floor. He did not remain here a long time. That John U. Parsons was related to him we have reason to believe from the fact that he was his agent for the sale of the property, which was sold to Edmund Pierson in 1809. Pierson sold to Ralph Curtis and Curtis to Fairfield. It is a remarkable structure so far as regards its frame; the sills and plates were of timber one foot square and the corner posts were secured at the corners by oak knees, precisely after the fashion employed in ship work.

We entertain no doubt as to the correctness of our statement respecting the name of the builder of the last-named and of Grant's store, but it would be extremely difficult at this day, without a great deal of research, to give the names of the intermediate occupants.

The adjoining lot was formerly owned by Capt. George Perkins, on which he erected a building which was used as a store. Mr. Perkins sold this place to Nathaniel Shute in 1809. Mr. Shute improved the lower floor, where he carried on his business as a saddler, and probably occupied it as a dwelling place also. The upper floor was leased in whole or in part to Elisha Chadbourne. Mr. Shute had taken up his residence here about four years before purchasing this piece of property. He married Elizabeth Smith, of Exeter, N. H., in 1806; she died in 1810, and he married again two years later. In 1842 Ralph Curtis moved this building a few rods back, in what is known as Curtis's Court; it was then fitted up and it has since been leased for a dwelling-house and on its old location now stands the

"Beam House" of the "Scotchman's Brook" tannery, moved there that same year by Mr. Curtis. This building is now owned by his son, Mr. Fuller Curtis, for rental. The front room is occupied as a store, while the rear of the building and the upper floor are used as a tenement.

The dwelling-house occupied by Christopher Littlefield was built by Capt. George Perkins. He shortly removed to his farm on the Alfred road. (A biographical sketch of Captain Perkins will be found in another chapter.) Ebenezer Curtis purchased the house and fitted up the lower floor of the eastern half part for a grocery store. Subsequently the property was purchased by William Lord, Jr., by whom alterations and improvements were made, among which was the restoration of the store part to the use for which it was originally designed.

The building which until a recent date was occupied by George E. Littlefield as a carpenter shop, now converted into a store and dwelling, stands on the eastern part of the original George Perkins lot. Stephen Furbish had a blacksmith's shop there, which was removed to Portland Street; Joseph Thomas's law office, which after his death was improved awhile by Daniel Sewall, stood there many years; it was removed to the western end of the triangular lots, and improved as a store for the sale of small wares by a Mrs. Watts, and by others as a dwelling. Theodore Webber built a store and house under one roof, on the site from which Thomas's office was removed, where he traded and his family resided a few years. It was sold and removed to Fletcher Street and later became the dwelling-house of A. W. Mendum. This site and the building standing upon it are now the property of G. E. and W. L. Littlefield.

The tenement house owned by John Cousens was originally the store of Joseph Moody and stood on the lot opposite the residence of James M. Stone, on the Landing road. It stands on the western part of a lot purchased of the Storers, in 1793, by Caleb Burbank, who erected thereon a blacksmith's shop, which he operated a few years, and also on the eastern half part the dwelling-house now owned and occupied by John Cousens, by whom, however, it has been considerably enlarged. We are not able to say whether the house was ever occupied by Burbank. An aged lady, who well remembered the building of the house and who was quite sure that "she spoke whereof she knew," assured us that "Burbank lived and died a bachelor." We find that in 1794 legal notice that "Caleb Burbank and Sarah Littlefield, both of Wells, intend marriage" was

duly "published," but find no evidence that the intention was fulfilled.

After residing here ten or twelve years, Burbank sold his entire village property to John U. Parsons. The blacksmith shop was converted into a store and Mr. Parsons traded there several years. It is not improbable that when he first came here he succeeded Joseph Parsons in the (present) Fairfield store, and about 1809 moved thence into his newly fitted up building, where he continued until Waterston, Pray & Co. removed to Boston, when he succeeded them in the occupancy of the brick store. Soon after this the store which had been occupied by Parsons was sold and moved to the west side of the river, where it was known for many years as the "Simon Ross house." (Simon Ross married Jane Hooper, granddaughter of Capt. George Perkins, February 17, 1805.)

Joseph G. Moody purchased the Burbank-Parsons house and resided there until he took up his residence in Augusta. (Mr. Moody married Elizabeth Cogswell, eldest daughter of Jacob M. Currier, of Dover, N. H., November 26, 1826.) To the lot made vacant by the removal of the Parsons store, he moved his father's store, and traded there several years. He was succeeded in 1835 by Andrew Walker, furniture and groceries, who removed to the Hardy store in 1857. Afterward the post office was kept here a number of years, and was removed hence to its present location. The building is now utilized as a tenement house. Moody sold this property to John Cousens, whose heirs occupy the dwelling-house.

April 1, 1795, Benjamin Silsbee bought forty feet square of land adjoining Burbank's land and opposite Brown's house. He erected a store thereupon the following summer. On account of failing health he relinquished business about eighteen months later, and sold his store and lot to Burbank in 1797. Silsbee, while suffering from temporary insanity, committed suicide by hanging himself. He was a widower. He left one son, Samuel, who proved to be an active business man.

The Silsbee store was occupied, in part, several years by Joseph M. Stickney and Enoch Hardy, tobacconists; the other part, from 1803 to 1807, was improved as a printing office; first by John Whitelock, followed by Stephen Sewall, then by William Weeks. Stickney married Olive Parsons, of Phillipsburg, in April, 1806, and left town a few months later. Hardy continued to carry on the tobacconist's business, built a store and transferred his stock to it in 1810; he purchased the Silsbee store and moved it a short dis-



tance west of the site of the John G. Downing house on Summer Street.

The dwelling-house owned by Mrs. John Hill and occupied, one-half part by her and the other by Andrew Walker, was built in 1797 by Stephen Furbish, who dwelt there four or five years. Mr. Parsons owned a house on the Landing road, which was built by one Abraham Witham a few years previously, which he proposed to exchange for this, and tempted Mr. Furbish with so good an offer that he accepted it. Parsons married Mrs. Susanna Savary, of Newburyport, in February, 1804, and moved into this house, Furbish having taken possession of that on the Landing road. This exchange gave to Mr. Parsons the ownership of all the front land from the Perkins to the eastern boundary of the Furbish lot. In 1814 Parsons built the house now owned and occupied by Edward E. Bourne and moved into it the same year. Mrs. Parsons died about six months afterward, July 3, 1815. This house was built in all particulars, size, interior and exterior finish, after the plans used in the erection of the house in which Mrs. Parsons dwelt in Newburyport, and which was destroyed in the "great fire" in that town, a few years prior to her removal to this place. Daniel Sewall purchased the house in 1816, and dwelt there the remainder of his lifetime. His son and successor, William Bartlett Sewall, also spent the last days of his life there, as did his widow, Mrs. Maria M. Sewall, who at her death devised it to her nephew, Edward E. Bourne, Jr.

The next lot was purchased by Peter Folsom July 10, 1799, and he erected a shop and dwelling under the same roof in 1799-80. After Folsom died Palmer Walker continued the saddler's business in this shop until 1818, when he removed to his new building. The property came into possession of Joseph Thomas, by whose widow it was occupied a number of years. After her death the building was taken down and the lot purchased by and divided between the owners of the adjacent lands.

Joseph Porter bought the next lot in 1802, and put up a building the following year, one-half part of which was improved as a tin shop and the other as a dwelling. He carried on the tin business prosperously. A few years later he purchased the Hemenway house on (now) Summer Street, to which he removed at once, and also built a shop a few rods west of it. The building first occupied was sawn in two, and the western half part occupied as a dwelling-house by his son Horace for many years. When he sold it, it was removed to Brown Street and is now the property of Miss Angie

Fernald. On its site Mr. Porter erected the dwelling-house afterward occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Clara L. Hardy. The other half part was moved eastward two or three rods and fitted up for a dwelling. It was occupied awhile by Joshua Tolford, jeweler, who came to this town from Portland and returned to that town after residing here about two years. It was purchased by Palmer Walker. It was burned in 1824. Mr. Walker built a larger and more desirable dwelling on the site thus made vacant, which he occupied until his death, in 1878. It is now the property of Col. Charles R. Littlefield, by whom it has been greatly improved interiorly and exteriorly.

John H. Bartlett bought the adjacent lot in 1804 and put up a large dwelling-house, together with a barn and outbuildings, the same year. Mr. Bartlett was a farmer and purchased farming lands near the village; he was industrious and enterprising. On the night of the third of August, 1824, all his buildings were destroyed by fire, which originated in his barn, and which caused the destruction of several other buildings in the vicinity. He replaced these buildings the following season, which after his death were purchased by Dr. Elbridge G. Stevens, by whom they were greatly improved. Mr. Stephen Perkins afterward owned and occupied this property. Mr. Bartlett came to this town from Shapleigh.

The next lot was purchased of the Storers by Daniel Hodsdon and Jamin Savage in 1807. They erected a three-story building; the first floor a warehouse, the second a cabinet maker's shop, the third for painters and the storing of valuable lumber required in the manufacture of furniture. They were active business men and quite successful for awhile. Savage withdrew from the copartnership and Edward White took his place. The building was burned in 1824. Oliver Bartlett put up a dwelling and bake-house, under one roof, on its site. Bartlett sold to Oliver Raitt, who made several alterations and improvements. He did not occupy it more than two or three years; then he sold it to Mrs. Martha Hartwell, whose heirs held and utilized it as a dwelling and a millinery store. They sold the building to George L. Little in 1890. It was occupied by his son-in-law, George W. Frost.

The next building was a large brick store, erected by Waterston, Pray & Co. in 1812. The first and second floors were improved as salesrooms, and the third as a Masonic lodge room. Waterston & Pray removed to Boston in 1817, when John U. Parsons & Co. (Parsons and his son-in-law, Moses Savary) succeeded them. Mr. Parsons was compelled soon after, by ill health, to relinquish busi-

ness. He removed to Parsonsfield, his native town. Mr. Parsons was much respected. He was a graduate of Harvard and was an excellent scholar. All movements for the intellectual progress of the community always found in him an interested and efficient supporter. He was elected by the voters of York County to represent them in the State Senate. The building was seriously damaged by fire in 1824, but the walls were left standing in fair condition. The property was sold to Isaac Lord, of Effingham, N. H., by whom the store was rebuilt. The eastern half part of the lower floor was occupied by his sons, James and Isaac Lord, general merchandise, and the western half part by Barnabas Palmer, who kept the post office there. On the second floor were the law offices of Edward E. Bourne and William B. Sewall. Afterward Mr. Bourne was succeeded by his son Edward and James M. Stone, copartners. On the organization of the Ocean Bank, Mr. Sewall removed his office to his dwelling-house, in order that that institution might be located in his convenient and pleasant room. An "annex" to the "old brick" was put up by Daniel Wise, Jr., the end fronting Main Street of brick, the remainder of wood. Mr. Wise formed a copartnership with John W. Bodwell, and opened a store for the sale of general merchandise. The upper floor of the "old brick" was already improved by the Odd Fellows, and the upper floor of the "annex" was taken by the Masons, who since the fire had held their meetings a few times in Washington Hall, and afterward in the chamber over Hardy's store. Wise & Bodwell dissolved copartnership about a year later. Wise, who was not partial to the occupation, relinquished it a year or two later. The building was then sold to Jonathan Stone, of Kennebunkport, who converted the "annex" into a public house, the "Mousam House." It was a well-arranged and well-kept establishment, but Mr. Stone's health would not permit him to perform the duties of landlord, and within two years from the date of assuming them he relinquished the business and returned to his native town, where he died May 29, 1839, aged forty-seven years. Simon L. Whitten and his father-in-law, Mr. Hinds, who came from Portland, succeeded Mr. Stone in the management of the hotel, but after remaining here about two years Mr. Hinds thought that he preferred Portland to Kennebunk, so returned to that city. Mr. Whitten could not add to the cares incident to his regular business those of innkeeper, and he also retired. They were succeeded by Benjamin F. Goodwin, who in connection with his father, Hosah Goodwin, who had the contract for carrying the mails to and from the Eastern



Depot, which was done in a passenger coach, made the establishment both popular and prosperous.

Again on December third, 1869, the flames swept through the walls of the "old brick," but this time with more disastrous consequences than before. It was left a mass of ruins. The fire originated in a small building in the rear of Junkins's shop, which was burned, thence spreading to the brick store, which was also destroyed. The bank building now occupies a part of the lot on which it stood. The "Osborn store" has been removed to this lot and is improved on the lower floor as a grocery store, and on the upper floor is the hall of the Webster Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

There was a small building which stood east of the "old brick" many years ago, probably moved there, but by whom or when we cannot learn. In this, Seaver, Palmer & Co. opened a store, general merchandise (Josiah W. Seaver, of South Berwick, special partner, Barnabas Palmer and Harford, active partners); the former and the latter retired a year or two later. Palmer continued the business and removed to another building. He was succeeded by Moses Varney, morocco shoes; he by Alexander Warren and William M. Bryant, copartners, medicines and restaurant; this firm by Owen Burnham, general merchandise. This building was burned in 1824. Mr. Burnham removed to the Hardy store. The Masons had removed to the Kelley & Warren block previous to the date of this fire.

Elisha Chadbourne had a blacksmith's shop in the rear of the old brick, access to which was on Fletcher Street; burned in 1824. Mr. Chadbourne did not rebuild on this lot, but sold it to Humphrey Chadbourne and Paul Junkins, copartners, who put up a large building for a salesroom and the manufacture of furniture. Abial Kelley, Jr., at one time occupied a part of the lower floor as a store, general merchandise; he moved to the Eastern Depot. The fire of 1869 destroyed this building. Mr. Junkins had passed away two years before the fire (August 24, 1867), and after the loss of the building Mr. Chadbourne left town.

We cross the "new road," as it was designated for many years, which was laid out in 1797, commencing at Osborn's Corner and terminating near P. C. Wiggin's homestead, where it intersects the old road; the old road is now Storer Street, the new, Fletcher Street.

Very near the commencement of Fletcher Street (eastern side) was the Safford property. Two buildings had been moved on to the lot, at different times, as early we think as 1798 and 1800. The deed of the land "on which said Safford's house and shop now

stand" is dated June 26, 1812. He must have had a lease or bond for a deed many years prior to this date. Safford was married to Lois Knowlton, of Ipswich, Mass., February 7, 1801. It is beyond question that Mr. Safford established himself here two or three years before his marriage, and that the shop building was moved to the spot where it stood so long that length of time before that which was converted into a dwelling was moved and joined to it, and that these buildings were the first on the "new road." The Herrick shop (formerly Frost's) was moved to a vacant spot at the northern end of Safford's lot several years ago. All the Safford property, including Herrick's shop, was purchased by James Osborn, Jr., and was included in the sale to Sidney T. Fuller, by Osborn's heirs, in 1886. Mr. Fuller moved the store, as before stated, moved the house back several feet and made extensive alterations on the building, the out-buildings and the adjacent grounds; he tore down the Safford shop, converted the house into a barn, and moved the Herrick shop to the northerly corner of his lot on the westerly side of Fletcher Street.

The Osborn house was built in 1792 and the store on the corner about twenty years later. In the western corner of this house James Osborn, Jr., kept the post office from 1829 to 1841. His father acted as assistant; both the postmaster and his assistant were capable, accurate and accommodating gentlemen.

Next to Safford's, on the "new road," was a store built by Timothy Kezer in 1804 (a store on the lower floor and a dwelling on the upper), where he traded awhile, when he formed a copartnership with Horace Porter, which was dissolved in 1810. Kezer removed to the Landing and Porter continued in the shop as junior partner of the firm of Smith & Porter (Benjamin Smith and Horace Porter). After the death of Mr. Smith Mr. Porter retired and George W. Hardy continued the grocery business until his death. Mr. Kezer occupied the upper floor as a dwelling for about two years. It has since had many different occupants. Mr. George Parsons purchased the building, by whom it was removed to the western side of the street. A private school was kept on the second floor for a few terms by Miss Susie Hardy, which was afterward converted into a tenement; later the lower story was occupied for several years as a private school, taught by Miss Georgia Parsons. The dwelling-house on the northern part of the lot was erected by Kezer in 1806, occupied by him until his removal to the Landing, sold to Robert Waterston and occupied by him until his removal to Boston, sold to Jotham Perkins and occupied by him until his death

in 1830 (at the age of forty-nine years) and by his widow a few years later, sold to Oliver Raitt, who occupied it a short time, sold to George Parsons, by whom it was greatly improved as a summer residence—his place of business and his winter home being in New York City—until 1889, when he sold it to Charles Goodnow.

Daniel Hodsdon built the house owned by Benjamin Perkins, in 1809. Mr. Hodsdon married Agnes Knowlton, of Ipswich, February, 1810. Their children were: Daniel (physician, North Berwick), married, October 25, 1841, Mrs. Nancy Hobbs, of North Berwick; Olive P., married Asa S. Thorndike, of Washington, Vt., and Cyrus.

Near to this was a small house, erected by Mrs. Polly (Gillpatrick) Nichols about 1804. It was sold at auction in November, 1815. Joseph Thomas was the purchaser, by whom it was moved to the Capt. George Perkins lot at Scotchman's Brook. The dwelling recently occupied by John Mitchell was originally the school-house in the sixth district, and stood very near the lot now covered by Mrs. Lancey Littlefield's dwelling-house on the Ross road. It was moved to its present location many years ago and was occupied a long time by the daughters and the son of Samuel Hill, Sr. Mitchell purchased it and resided there until his death.

The next house stands on the lot occupied for many years by the shoemaker's shop of Capt. Samuel Littlefield, Jr., and is a part of the land purchased of the Storers, by Theophilus Hardy, in 1806. Hardy was a tanner and erected a dwelling-house, now standing, and the several buildings required in the prosecution of his business. A considerable part of the space between the buildings and the brook was occupied with vats. The dwelling-house is all that remains of this once extensive establishment. Hardy formed a copartnership with Jotham Perkins in 1809. The partners were industrious, temperate, enterprising men and with sufficient means at their command to enable them to carry on a large business without incurring pecuniary embarrassment. We think the same may be said of all the tanners who have carried on business in this town. Until circumstances that could not be avoided or overcome rendered our location an ineligible one for its successful prosecution, the business was very remunerative. From 1800 to 1830 the tanneries were an important factor in the prosperity of the town. Perkins continued the business and in 1815 formed a copartnership with Thomas B. Chamberlain. After the death of Perkins, Samuel Littlefield purchased the whole establishment and carried on the busi-



ness awhile. He sold to Oliver Raitt, who came from Eliot, and it was operated by him, with fair results, for a few years. Raitt purchased considerable real estate in the village, but he was disappointed in his expectations; he sold his property here, in parcels, to different persons and returned to Eliot. The entire tannery property was sold to George Parsons, by whom the vats were filled up and nearly all the buildings torn down.

Crossing the brook and passing a long stretch of woodland, there was not another building until we reach the dwelling-house and extensive butchery establishment of Nathan Wiggin, erected by him in 1845. This is now the property of his son Parker, who in 1887 moved the house to an adjoining lot, building on another L for the accommodation of two families. The following year Mr. Wiggin erected one of more modern architecture on the same site as the old, in which he resides. Within recent years the strip of woods bordering the road has gradually succumbed to the woodman's ax and a number of neat cottages have been built on the lots laid out.

Next above Mr. Wiggin's is the house on the "Fletcher place," owned and occupied by Edwin Parsons, built about 1796 by Samuel Stevens, Jr., who married Hannah Hill in May, 1798. Stevens died at sea about 1801. The estate was sold to Rev. N. H. Fletcher, who purchased several lots of land in its immediate vicinity, making a farm of respectable dimensions. He also built a barn with all the then "modern improvements," by far the largest and most convenient that had been erected in this or the neighboring towns. Mr. Fletcher vacated this estate in 1827; it was sold to Nathaniel M. Towle and afterward purchased by Nathan Dane, Jr., who put the buildings in excellent repair; he sold to John Roberts, during whose ownership the barn built by Mr. Fletcher was burned. Mr. Roberts erected a new one on the same lot, and soon after sold the estate to Frank Perkins, on whose death it passed into the possession of Edwin Parsons.

James Ridgway built a house on the adjoining lot. He was a house carpenter. His family consisted of two sons and a daughter; one of his sons resided with him a few years; his daughter, Betsey, married Joseph Emmons, of Lyman. Ridgway, his wife and one son removed to some other town prior to 1809.

Next above Ridgway's was the house of Samuel Hill. He also was a house carpenter, and, judging from notices of him that we have met with, a good workman and enterprising; he was much respected. He was master workman in the construction of several

buildings in the village ; one of those now standing was the house of Phineas Cole, now the property of Dr. F. M. Ross ; another, the house owned by the heirs of Dr. Richards, and still another, the house owned by the heirs of Ralph Curtis, which he (Hill) built for his own occupancy and which, after his decease, was sold at auction, purchased by Curtis and removed to its present location. Hill owned at one time the house belonging to the heirs of Mrs. Hewes. He had several daughters and one son, who was feeble-minded. Hill, Sr., was a major in the State Militia.

Next above the last named, near the present location of Mr. Ivory Lord's dwelling, was the domicile of Reuben Hatch, a very comfortable structure, and occupied by him until his death. He married Olive Boothby in December, 1761. Mr. Hatch was one of the earliest settlers on that road. He had a barn in the vicinity of the house, and also a rude structure of logs which was used for a sheep pen. It was used two or more seasons, during the warm weather, for a schoolroom ; the first of which we find any mention within the present territorial limits of District Number Five. He had a daughter Martha, who married Joseph Young in December, 1788. We are told that Young lived with his father-in-law, Hatch. Young married for his second wife, in 1799, Mehitabel Murphy. By his first wife he had two sons. Jotham, the elder, married Hannah Sherman in 1807. He was killed by the bursting of a swivel on the Fourth of July, several years later. Thomas Eaton, a house carpenter, married Phebe Young, probably a sister to Joseph, in 1793. Eaton was a nice workman ; he contracted with the Second Parish in Wells, (now First in Kennebunk) to enlarge the meeting-house and to add a belfry in 1803. He appears to have been a very respectable man. Whether Eaton and his wife dwelt in the Hatch house, we are unable to say. We have traditions in great abundance, but discordant and unreliable, with very few well-founded facts. We think it is true that the Youngs lived in the Hatch house until it was demolished, about 1820. The family is now extinct here.

Crossing the gully, which at one time extended across the road, we soon reach the dwelling-house of Mrs. David Drawbridge, which is the L part of the house erected by Capt. George Perkins in 1803 or 1804. Ezra and George divided the real estate held by their father, which was situated on both sides of the road. Ezra retained the half part on the eastern side of the road, together with this L part. George took possession of the western half, together with the main building. This has stood for many years untenanted and

dilapidated and generally known as "the black house." George Perkins, son of Captain George, married Mrs. Nancy (Morrison) Jeffers, February, 1827; he lived a year or two in the Daniel Durrell house, on west side of Mousam River, and in the Fletcher house while owned by N. M. Towle, then occupied his dwelling near Rand's Spring; he died at the residence of his son.

We have here reached the northern boundary of the village district and retrace our steps, noting as we pass along whatever we may think of interest on the western side of the street. About half a dozen rods south of the gully we find the site of the dwelling of Ebenezer Rand, erected as early as 1742. Rand was the first settler on the Coxhall-Mousam road between Storer's and Cat Mousam Mill. We know very little of his history. The committee "to draw the pews in the gallery of the meeting-house," in 1773, assigned to Rand pew No. 1 in the first rank. In 1748 he bought seven acres of marsh land on the Mousam, which is to this day known as Rand's Marsh. A copy of the deed conveying this parcel of land may not be uninteresting. John Butland to Ebenezer Rand: "Seven acres of fresh meadow land, lying on the eastern side of Mousam River, butting against the land formerly granted to Robert Stuart, and at the upper end of it a white pine tree marked on four sides, which said seven acres was laid out by the lot layers for John Look on June 2, 1715." April 3, 1748. Rand was a farmer and spent much time on his marsh purchase. He used to delight in telling stories about his dog, one of which was that he very frequently visited the marsh, where there was an otter with which he was on the best of terms; they would play together for hours. An accident happened to Rand's gun by which it was rendered useless; it was a long time before he could raise the means with which to buy another. Otters, minks, musquash and beavers, as well as moose and deer, were abundant, but he was unable to obtain furs or venison, his chief dependence for funds and food. He left no child,—indeed it is not known that he was married, although the records show that he was "published" July 6, 1754, "Ebenezer Rand and Hepsibah Hatch." There is reason to believe, however, that they were never joined in Hymen's bands. Richard Shackley, a relative, lived with Rand several years and at his decease came into possession of his property. Shackley with his family resided there some time after Rand's death. He exchanged farms with Samuel B. Low, of Lyman, and moved there. Low, who was a cabinet maker and house carpenter, resided on the Rand place two or three years and then moved the house to the village, but to what location is not definitely known.



The buildings on the west side of the Coxhall-Mousam road, between Rand's Spring and the northern terminus of the "new road," have been built within a few years. The dwelling-house owned by Mrs. Joseph T. Nason, on the corner of Fletcher and Mechanic Streets, was built by Abial Kelley, Jr. That on the opposite of Mechanic Street, the first one erected thereon, was built by Rufus Furbish in 1821-22. He sold it a few years afterward to Hosah Goodwin, by whom it was enlarged and the interior much improved. It is now in possession of his grandchild, Mrs. Margaret, widow of William C. Storer. Between the Furbish house and the "Heater," then so-called, in olden time was a lane, which now forms a part, or the whole, of Mechanic Street. On each side of this lane hazel bushes grew in great abundance; these annually produced a large crop of nuts, which were gathered by the boys and girls of the time. It was a favorite route for small boys who "played horse" to start from Osborn's Corner, go up street as far as this lane, turn into and pass through it, on to and down the old road to Garden Street, through this to and up Main Street "to the place begun at." This was "going round the square."

Benaiah Littlefield built the second house on Mechanic Street, on its northwesterly corner, which has been greatly improved by his son, William L., the present owner and occupant. Buildings have been erected, from time to time, on this pleasant street until, at the present writing, only two or three lots remain unimproved.

Next below Mrs. Storer's is the dwelling built by Dr. David D. Spear, which afterward became the property of Samuel Bragdon, and near to this the dwelling erected by Samuel Littlefield, Jr., now owned and occupied by his daughters. On the southerly side of Scotchman's Brook, in 1810, Theophilus Hardy built a one-story house for his own occupancy, where he lived the remainder of his life and where his widow lived several years. It was sold to James Osborn, Jr., who resided there awhile and until his new house, on Portland Street, had been completed, when the Hardy house was moved and utilized as an L to the new and larger building. On the lot where stood the Hardy house are two small tenement houses, erected by the late Mrs. John Mitchell. Below this is the dwelling of A. W. Mendum, before noticed, and on the adjoining lot the dwelling-house of the late Samuel Mendum, built, we think, about 1820 and occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Clark. Passing the lots and buildings before mentioned, we find ourselves back to Main Street.

## CHAPTER V.

### RESIDENCES AND BUILDINGS CONTINUED: DANE, ELM, PARK AND SUMMER STREETS.

Upon arriving at the foot of Fletcher Street and crossing Main, we enter upon Dane Street. We have spoken in a previous chapter of the "white store," on its eastern corner, and of James Kimball Jr.'s blacksmith shop, which stood in the rear of it and on the site of which now stands the dwelling-house built by John T. Kimball since 1830, afterward sold to Capt. Jott S. Perkins and now the residence of Henry Durrell. Next is the Second Congregational Church, in close proximity to which is its vestry, and on the adjoining lot is the parsonage house of the Methodist Society, the gift of Miss Sarah Burnham, who owned and occupied it for a few years. It was built many years ago, on the Ross road, and became the property of Barnaba's Palmer, by whom it was moved to its present location. Next is a two-story double house, built by Mr. Palmer and afterward owned by the heirs of Capt. John Barker and by the heirs of Capt. George A. Webb. This brings us to Elm Street, near the northern corner of which stands a one-story building, built by the Kimball family, a century ago at least, on the Ross road; purchased by Mr. Palmer and by him moved to its present location, December 16 to 19, 1826. It is now owned by the heirs of Patrick Rice. On the opposite side of the street and fronting Green Street is the more modern residence owned and occupied jointly by the heirs of Patrick Rice and Edward Ward. This building stands on part of a parcel (between five and six acres) of land sold by James Kimball to Enoch Hardy, Daniel Hodsdon and Jamin Savage in October, 1807, bounded by the road, William Taylor (the lot on which the Huff and Webber house stands), Jacob Fisher (N. L. Thompson's homestead) and James Kimball, Jr. (excluding the Hemmenway lot), afterward Joseph Porter's homestead and now owned by Hartley Lord. It was part of a tract of land purchased by Kimball in 1797 of Thomas Cousens and is a part of the original mill lot of three hundred acres granted by the town of Wells to Henry Sayward in 1769. In order to facilitate the improvement of their acres as house lots, Hardy and his associates opened the

lane now Park Street and another at the west end of their lot, now Elm Street, and the connecting lane between these two. These passageways, connected, were known for many years as "Love Lane." We do not know the origin of this sobriquet.

At the corner of Elm and Dane Streets is the house of Mrs. Mehitabel Nason, built by Edward Gould a few years after the laying out of the street. He sold to William Lord, Jr., and Lord to Daniel Nason, Jr. Next is the dwelling-house built by Isaac Furbish about the same time as that above named and now held by his heirs. Then comes the house of Mrs. Edward Stone, which formerly stood on that part of the Wells road leading from Boothby's Beach to Kennebunkport. It was purchased by Edward Greenough and moved to the site it now occupies; after his death it was occupied for a time by Charles Williams and then sold to William Hackett, and by his heirs sold to Capt. Edward Stone. On Park Street, fronting Dane, is the high school building; beyond, on the southeasterly side of the extension of Park, are several remarkably neat and prettily situated dwelling-houses, which have been erected within recent years. On the new street, Grove, leading from Main to Park, laid out in 1881, is the schoolhouse built for the accommodation of the Central Intermediate and Central Primary Schools. The northern side of this street is well covered with buildings, neat and commodious. Four acres of "Barnard's pasture" was purchased by Benjamin Smith, many years ago, and the lot was long known as "Smith's field." The extension of Park Street and its vicinity occupies this ground, which has been given the title of "Centennial Hill," in commemoration of the pavilion erected there, within which were the dinner tables, July 4, 1876.

Returning to Main Street, through Dane, we pass, on the western side of the last-named, the house built by Charles W. Kimball, which later became the residence of Capt. William B. Nason; then the house formerly owned and occupied by Alexander Warren, and which after his death became the property of his daughter, Mary Warren. Oliver Bartlett purchased the lot on which this house stands about 1825 and put up a barn and the house frame, all of which he sold to Samuel Mendum in 1828; Mendum afterward sold to Warren, who finished the house and dwelt there the remainder of his lifetime. The third dwelling has been built within recent years, by George A. Gillpatrick, who occupies it.

Arriving at the head of Dane Street and turning to the right on Main we soon come to the Unitarian Church, which stands on the



eastern corner of Main and Portland Streets, and opposite, on the western corner of Summer and Portland Streets, is the Town Hall. On the site of this hall, for one-third part of a century, stood the blacksmith's shop of James Kimball. About 1800 Mr. Kimball moved his shop to the lot now occupied by the dwelling-house of Mrs. William Williams, for the purpose of providing an eligible site for a public hall, which was erected there, jointly, by Parker Webster and James Kimball, about 1805. There were two stores on the lower floor, and on the second floor was a well-arranged public hall, with anterooms, etc. The length of the building was sixty-three feet. Here, from time to time, orations and lectures were delivered, religious and political meetings held, schools kept, shows in great variety exhibited, to all of which must be added dancing schools and assemblies. When first built it was called "Webster's Hall," afterward "Assembly Hall," but about 1812 and thenceforward it was known as "Washington Hall." The stores had many different occupants; in that at the western end were, at different times, William Hackett, Nathaniel Littlefield, Enos Hoag, Hoag & Moody (Joseph G.) and Barnabas Palmer, who kept the post office there a short time, each of whom had a fair stock of goods and did a remunerative business; in that at the eastern end were Timothy Frost, Thomas Bramley, Samuel L. Osborn, Charles W. Williams and Charles Herick. The western half part of the building was sold by Webster to John Skeele, October 18, 1823, and Skeele sold to Phineas Stevens November thirteenth of the same year. Stevens shortly afterward put up an addition to the building, the lower floor of which he improved as a jeweler's shop, and the upper floor was occupied by Edward E. Bourne as a law office and for a few years as the selectmen's office. The building was destroyed by fire on November 26, 1866; many valuable papers, records and law books belonging to the town were also consumed.

The town voted, April 27, 1867, to erect a Town Hall, the lower floor to be used for town meetings, selectmen's office, etc., and the upper floor for a citizens' hall,—lectures, exhibitions and all the uses to which such rooms are usually devoted,—on the site of the structure which had been swept away by the flames. The sum of five thousand dollars was raised by loan for this purpose and a building committee appointed. In February following an additional sum of three thousand eight hundred dollars was raised. The building was erected in 1867-8. It was built of brick, with a slate roof. Its cost was fourteen thousand two hundred dollars, includ-

ing the lot. Of this sum the town paid eight thousand eight hundred dollars and individuals subscribed five thousand four hundred dollars. The expenses attendant upon the furnishing of the upper hall, amounting to about sixteen hundred and fifty dollars, were also defrayed by individual subscriptions. The building was dedicated with the usual ceremonies in the fall of 1868. To the upper hall was given the title of "Mousam Hall." The participants of these exercises, as speakers, were Joseph Titcomb, James M. Stone, Edward E. Bourne, Jr., and Daniel Remich.

The building owned and occupied by Charles C. Stevens, jeweler, stands on a part of the Washington Hall lot.

The next building on Portland Street is the property of Mrs. Pauline, widow of the late John Osborn, and is now occupied by her daughter, Mrs. Nancy Cousens. It was built by Dr. Ebenezer Rice prior to 1770. It stands on the southern corner of a parcel of land, containing sixty and one-fourth acres, purchased by Dr. Rice the twenty-second day of October, 1765, of Job Lyman, a physician, of York.<sup>1</sup> He probably built the house the following year. The front room, south, was fitted for an apothecary's shop. Dr. Rice married Martha, daughter of Nathaniel Wells, April 11, 1765. It is said he at one time occupied the house of Jonathan Banks, now a part of the dwelling-house of Robert W. Lord. Besides the lot of sixty acres, before mentioned, he bought of William Sayer, of Wells, in 1771, one share in the common and undivided lands in Wells, and in 1772 was largely interested in the iron works and grist-mill on the lower falls of the Mousam (now improved by the leather board proprietors). He was also greatly interested in parish affairs. It is a fair inference that he took greater interest in land and speculations, and in other matters foreign to his profession, than he did in perfecting himself, by careful study, to become useful and maintain a well-earned good standing as a medical practitioner. He had four children: Ebenezer, born in 1765; Dorothy, 1767; Betty, 1770; and Lydia, 1773, in which year his wife died. He left here not long afterward and settled in an interior town in Massachusetts. He visited this village several times, from 1775 to 1790, to make sales of real estate. December 11, 1782, he sold a lot of land, from his purchase of Lyman, of about two acres to Tobias Lord and another of about the same quantity to Jacob Curtis; he had previously sold a large lot to Abraham Currier and other lots to different persons.

<sup>1</sup>Job Lyman was a brother to Rev. Isaac Lyman, of York. He was undoubtedly nearly related to Theodore, of this town.

His Lyman lot of sixty acres was bounded by land of James Hubbard, Joseph Storer, Nathaniel Kimball, Jedediah Wakefield, Edmund Currier, the highway and land of John Wakefield. About 1790 Rice sold to James Kimball his house and adjoining land and also a parcel of land adjoining and north of his homestead. In 1793 Kimball sold to Benjamin Deighton the last-named parcel of land for a house lot, where the old Deighton house and barn stood, and now occupied by the Methodist meeting-house. In 1797 Kimball sold to Benjamin Deighton and Jonathan Young the homestead formerly occupied by Rice, and in 1800 Young sold his half interest to Deighton, who had probably occupied a part or the whole of this house since his marriage to Mabel Boothby in 1790. He moved into his new house in 1800. Rev. Mr. Fletcher succeeded him, as occupant of the Rice house, in January, 1801, and resided there a year or two. Samuel L. Osborn purchased the property, where he resided many years, improving the former apothecary's shop as a country store. Thomas Folsom had previously occupied this shop as a watchmaker's and jeweler's establishment; he was succeeded by Phineas Stevens, in the same business, who remained there until 1824.

The old Portland road, from Main Street to and by the Currier-Nason place and by Barnard's and Jacob Wakefield's, appears to have been very near the dividing line between the northern part of the Sayward mills grant and the early grant to the Storers and the "Kennebunk grants," made to the builders of the mills on the Kennebunk River in 1681. Patient research would undoubtedly develop many interesting facts bearing on the inquiry, but we doubt if it would be possible to trace out and describe the almost numberless divisions and sub-divisions of the Kennebunk mill lots, or to furnish a full list of the different persons to whom these lands had been conveyed between the years 1681 and 1781. Some of these conveyances were recorded on the town books, some on the proprietors' books, others on the county records, and many, without having been recorded or acknowledged even, were thrown into boxes, drawers or desks, to be brought to light in after years by the heirs of the grantees, who valued them only as reliable testimony in regard to the boundaries of their lands, to which they had already gained an ample title by possession.

Nicholas Cole's grant, next below that of Edmund Littlefield, was conveyed by Ichabod Cousens and his wife, Ruth (Cole) Cousens, to Storer, May 10, 1745, "containing one hundred acres of upland, made to our grandfather, Nicholas Cole, May 7, 1681, by



the town of Wells." Nathan Littlefield, to whom was granted one hundred acres of upland next below Cole's, conveyed his tract to William Taylor, June 9, 1684; whether this grant had been held intact in the Taylor family a hundred years and then came into possession of William, the son of John, or whether portions of it had been sold in the interim, we are unable to say. We think, however, that the half part of it nearest the river had been sold prior to 1784. We are quite sure that the William of 1784 became owner of the half part bounded by the highway, and have no documentary evidence to prove that the entire grant did not come into his possession. This purchase gave him a front on the highway extending from Kimball's eastern line (now Mrs. Williams's) to James Wakefield's western line (now W. L. Thompson's); how far it ran back is uncertain. It is said that the southwestern boundary of these grants was the highway from the village to Kennebunkport. We think such was the fact. Land surveyors, in those days, made excellent measure, with the concurrence of the grantors.

Among the oldest dwelling-houses in the village is that erected by James Kimball, in 1763, on the left-hand side of the road leading to the Port, now Summer Street. It has since been the home of the grandson of the builder, Capt. John Clement Lord. A few rods east of this was the blacksmith's shop of Mr. Kimball. He was compelled to relinquish business in consequence of loss of eyesight, and the shop lot was sold to Samuel B. Low, who erected a dwelling-house thereon, which he occupied a short time; he sold to Enoch Hardy, who dwelt there until his decease, in 1849. William Hackett then became its owner and occupant; he sold to Capt. William Williams, who made very extensive alterations and improvements upon it. It is now the homestead of his widow. On the adjoining lot was a small building erected by Jonas Clark for a country store, and improved by him and Capt. Thomas A. Coney for awhile. In 1800 Mr. Clark was appointed collector of the customs, when this building was removed to the top of the hill, about midway between the house erected by Banks and the highway, and was improved until 1810 as the custom house, afterward as the office of the judge of probate. This building was later moved down town.

Jonathan Banks built the house before referred to as early as 1760, where he resided from 1763 until 1775 and perhaps to a later date. Very little is known concerning him. We do know, by his selection of the site for his domicile, that he was a man of good taste. It is supposed he came here from York, and that he was a

mill man and ship carpenter. He married Lois Berdeen (of York?) in 1764, a sister having been his housekeeper up to this date; he was again married, in 1773, to Deborah Kimball. His sister, Mary, married Caleb Kimball in 1771. Banks enlisted as a private in Captain Sawyer's company, for eight months' service, in 1775, and was stationed at Cambridge. We find no mention of him after this date. Whether he continued in the service or returned to his home, whether he had a child or children, when or to whom he sold his house, are inquiries that cannot now be answered.

Taylor sold to Judge Clark the lot extending from Kimball's line to the western boundary of that reserved for himself, now Mrs. Sarah Perkins's, including the Banks house. Clark sold the store lot to Joseph Dane about 1807, who built a dwelling-house and barn thereon, which were destroyed by fire a few years later. This lot he sold to James Kimball, Jr., in 1815, who disposed of it, at auction, in 1818. Jonas Clark was the purchaser. Clark had erected the main building to his house as early as 1801, making the Banks building, which he had occupied since his marriage, an L. The property was purchased about 1825 by William Lord, who dwelt there the remainder of his life. The present owner and occupant is Robert W. Lord, son of William.

The next house was built by William Taylor about 1790. For convenient arrangement of the interior and thorough workmanship throughout, it was considered the best house in town. He had previously built on his lot a store, a blacksmith's shop and a barn, and had moved the Lyman store on to the lot and fitted it up for a dwelling-house, in which he lived from the time of his marriage until his large house had been completed (see preceding chapter). From this he removed some ten years later to his new house (now Mrs. Richards's) on Green Street, and not long afterward he took up his abode in Waterborough. He died at the house of his father-in-law in this town. Probably Kennebunk never produced a more industrious, active and, for a time, successful business man than William Taylor; he was a generous, large-hearted and patriotic citizen, but he formed and, against the promptings of his better judgment, cherished a habit which proved his ruin, financially and physically. For a long time he stood in the front rank of the citizens of the town for respectability and wealth; he might, at the day of his death, have held that enviable position.

Much the larger part of the Taylor homestead, with its many acres, together with several adjoining parcels of land, were pur-

chased in 1882 by Hartley Lord, son of William, who had been a successful merchant in Boston for a number of years and who decided to make his future home in his native village, without, however, entirely relinquishing his mercantile pursuits in the city. On the site of the Lyman-Hillard building and other structures which aforetime were in close proximity to it, Mr. Lord has erected a fine residence, with all the modern improvements, and in the rear of this a neat farmhouse, with large barns, furnished with all the modern conveniences and appliances; in these barns may be seen splendid specimens of improved breeds of the most useful of our domestic animals, notably of the bovine genus. Of the old buildings no vestige remains; some of them have been removed to other locations, some have been torn down.

Crossing the pathway leading to the farm buildings and to the extensive tillage lands adjoining, we come to the old-time burying-ground of one or more of the Wakefield families, no marks of which are now visible; there were only a few interments therein. Here commences the front line of James Wakefield's grant of one hundred acres, bounded on the northeast by Kennebunk River and next below Nathan Littlefield's mill grant. A part of James's grant came into possession of Jedediah Wakefield, who sold forty-five acres of it to Capt. Joseph Hatch in 1800. It is said that Jacob had built a one-story house directly in front of the lot on which Captain Hatch erected his dwelling-house and where he resided. If this was the Jacob Wakefield who lived on the Portland road as early as 1745, as it probably was, although he must have been an aged man in 1800, we think that he must have removed his domicile from that road to its then present location, as we find no mention of its standing on its original position later than 1780.

There were many Wakefield families in Kennebunk from 1725 to 1820. We do not learn that a genealogical record of these exists, and it is impossible now to state which of those with this surname, so frequently found on the county records, were fathers or sons, or nephews or cousins. The daughters appear to have been numerous and to have been selected as partners for life by young men belonging to Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Lyman. Wakefield is getting to be a rare name in the town; many emigrated to other towns. There were, however, during the last half part of the eighteenth century many residents with this cognomen who were prominent as buyers and sellers of real estate and who were men of respectability. James had a grant of one hundred acres near Littlefield's mill, as



before stated, a large number of acres at the Landing, where he resided, one hundred acres on the eastern and three-eighths of an acre on the western side of Mousam River, being part of the grant of three hundred and one acres made by the town of Wells to Henry Sayward in 1669, one-half part of which was purchased of Henry Gibbs, of Boston, and John Cotton, of New Town, in 1724, by Joseph Hill and John Storer, of Wells. James Wakefield purchased his lot of Ebenezer and Benjamin Hill, of Biddeford, to whom it was given by their uncle, Joseph Hill. James, "in partition with Beard and Coolbroth [November 27, 1739], . . . owned in common a certain tract of land, . . . being a part set off to Rebecca Wakefield and Patience Annable." The entire tract contained six hundred acres, one-half part of which was set off to the aforesaid James, John and Nathaniel, each of whom was entitled to one hundred acres. Where this land was situated, we are unable to state, "York County" being the only description given. We infer that it was in Saco or Biddeford.

James sold to Jedediah fifty acres and one-eighth part of an acre, from his purchase of the Hills, "together with one-eighth part of the privilege where the first saw-mill standeth, next to Mousam Bridge."

Ebenezer and Benjamin Hill sold fifty acres, being the remainder of the lot willed to them by their uncle, to Nicholas Wakefield.

Hezekiah Wakefield sold to Samuel Wakefield, November 25, 1783, "one-sixteenth part of a certain saw-mill, being one-eighth part of the shore side of said mill, which stands on the eastern side of Mousam River, adjoining the country road and near the dwelling-house of Samuel Prentice."

From the homestead of Captain Hatch his heirs have sold two lots, west of their dwelling, on one of which John A. Lord has built a dwelling-house and on the other William L. Thompson has improved in a like manner, and below their own homestead a lot to Moses C. Maling and one to George L. Little, on both of which dwellings have been erected. Next beyond and adjoining the Wakefield grant, and no doubt a part of it at one time, Benjamin Littlefield, "Uncle Ben," purchased a house lot (of one of the Wakefields, probably) and put up a dwelling-house, prior to 1800, where he resided a few years. The property came into possession of Ralph Curtis and was in after years occupied by many different tenants, of various trades and professions. It was moved long since to the site of Curtis's Scotchman's Brook tannery and fitted up for

a tenement. Fifty or more acres adjoining the Wakefield grant, just below the railroad bridge, became the property of James Hubbard about 1750, who shortly afterward erected thereon a large two-story house, which he occupied until 1776, when he died, at Cambridge, Mass. His son Diamond succeeded him, and after he had passed along his widow dwelt there, with her children, many years. It came into possession of Capt. James Hubbard, who married Mary, daughter of Diamond. It has since been sold to John T. Ward, by whom the dwelling has been greatly enlarged and the whole property much improved.

Joseph Moody built a fine residence, for the time, on the next lot, in which he dwelt for a number of years until his death. His heirs sold the property to James Titcomb, who removed from the Landing and occupied it thereafter until his decease. It then became the property of his only daughter, Mrs. James M. Stone. The eastern boundary of this estate is also a part of the eastern boundary of School District No. 5 (village). Crossing the road here, a few steps village-ward brings us to the dwelling-house and carpenter's shop, both neat buildings, built not many years ago by the late Capt. Isaac Downing, who moved here from Kennebunkport. This is now the property of Webster Littlefield. Adjacent to this lot is Colonel Stone's garden, the site of Joseph Moody's store, which was built opposite to and about the same time as his dwelling-house. It was moved by his son, Joseph G., to its present location, between the dwelling of John Cousens and the shop owned by G. E. and W. L. Littlefield; it is now owned and utilized by Cousens as a tenement house. Next to this is the homestead of George Wise. One Churchill built a store on this lot about 1773 and traded there awhile; he enlisted in the United States service in 1776. We do not know what became of the store; possibly it was converted into a dwelling-house, a few years later, by Daniel Wise, who became owner of the land on which it stood. Clark & Condry, from Portland, we are told, had a store in Wise's house. In this case, Wise had probably built the main house and occupied it, and leased the L to Clark & Condry. They did not remain there long, but removed to the new store built by them farther up town. Wise died in 1843, leaving several children, of whom, at this writing, only one, George, survives; about 1865 he sold the main house, which was removed to the Eastern Depot, West Kennebunk, and the L, which was removed to the west side of the Mousam. On the site of these he has erected an imposing residence, where he resides. A few rods

distant from the house was a store, probably built about the same time as the former, in which Wise traded awhile. This was sold in after years to a Mr. Young, by whom it was moved several rods westward and converted into a dwelling. It afterward became the property of William Downs, grandson of Mrs. Hilton, by whom it was bequeathed to him.

Passing by the entrance to the sea road we come to Joseph Sargent's residence. The lot on which it stands was purchased of Diamond Hubbard, by Abial Kelley, in 1793. The house was built the following year and a large shop a year later on the corner next to the Hilton-Downs land. Kelley was the first hatter in town (if we except Howard, who probably did not carry on the business here). Alexander Warren entered into copartnership with Kelley about 1815. They relinquished business about 1830. Warren moved the shop to the lot opposite Phineas Stevens's house, on Green Street, where it stood until 1840, when he tore it down. The house was occupied by Kelley many years. It was afterward sold to Dr. Swett and was his residence until his death, after which the property was sold to Joseph Sargent.

Kelley had one son and four daughters. Abial, the son, was a trader; he married Abigail Knight, of Portland, in 1829; Lucy, the eldest daughter, married Alexander Warren, January 13, 1823; Mary, next in age, married Samuel Mendum at the same date; Charlotte, the youngest, married Levi P. Hillard, November 11, 1825. Betsey was never married.

Passing the entrance to the road leading to the Boston and Maine Depot, on which is the dwelling and store of Thomas L. Gillpatrick, the office of the American Express Company, the dwelling of Thomas Knight and the stable and dwelling of William Simpson, we are reminded that the latter occupies the site of a building "with a history," which stood there sixty years ago. Samuel Hancock came here as a schoolmaster in 1772. He kept school a short time at the Landing and afterward succeeded Emerson as a trader, oftentimes supplying Mr. Little's pulpit. He married Tabitha Champney, of Cambridge, in 1774; he died in 1776. His widow married John Hubbard, a connection to Diamond Hubbard, prior to 1778. The county records inform us that John Hubbard and his wife, Tabitha, administratrix of the estate of Samuel Hancock, deeded to Theodore Lyman, December 8, 1778, for £95, land in Wells containing three and three-fourths acres, which was purchased by Hancock of Rev. Daniel Little, "bounded northeasterly by Ken-



nebunk Landing, southeasterly by land of said Lyman, northwesterly by land of Little, together with frame and rock thereon." Lyman sold a small lot of the land to John Hubbard, who moved on to it a schoolhouse which had stood several years on a lot that was subsequently covered by Furbish's blacksmith's shop, on the Portland road, and a few feet distant from the eastern boundary of the cemetery. This building had been moved from its first location, in front of (now) Joseph Sargent's house, to the lot east of the cemetery several years previously. After standing there awhile, being no longer needed as a schoolroom, it was sold to Hubbard, by whom it was moved on to the lot afterward improved by William Simpson, and converted into a dwelling-house, the "rock" being utilized for underpinning and the "frame" for repairing and the building of a shed adjoining. Hubbard died a few years later; his widow resided there until her death, in 1816, at the age of seventy-seven years. Mrs. Hubbard spent the years of her first widowhood, as well as a part of those of her second, as a teacher. She was somewhat eccentric, but an excellent woman. After her death the house was occupied a year or two by Samuel Hubbard. It was then sold to Mrs. Mary Nichols, who moved it across the street on to a lot adjoining that on which the Benjamin Littlefield house stood. It did not remain here long; it was sold to Asa Taylor, moved to Brown Street, occupied by him until his death and by his widow afterward. It became the property of Mr. Frank Fairfield, by whom it was greatly improved. His son, Eugene A., occupied it a year or two, when it was destroyed by fire.

Adjoining the lot formerly occupied by the above-named dwelling was a small burying-ground, in which in years long passed many interments were made. For a long period of time this burial place presented a neglected appearance with its dilapidated fence and the graves covered with bushes and wild grasses. It was a sad spectacle to be presented on one of the main thoroughfares through the village, but gradually the remains of the decedents have been removed to other cemeteries and the lot has become vacant.

Adjoining the burying-ground is the site of a house built about 1790 by Abraham Witham. It came into the possession of John U. Parsons and by him was sold to Stephen Furbish, in part payment for the old-time Parsons house, on the corner of Main Street and Bourne's Avenue. Furbish lived here the remainder of his lifetime. It was sold afterward and moved to the Port District. Next to this was the Wakefield house, moved from the street in front of Captain

Hatch's, the blacksmith's shop—formerly Taylor's—which was purchased by John Chadbourne and moved to this location, and near by was a two-story dwelling-house erected by him. Chadbourne moved to Waterborough and the property was sold to Capt. Joseph Hatch; the shop was shortly afterward taken down. The Wakefield house stood on its new location for a long time and had very many different tenants. It was taken down a few years ago by Daniel L. Hatch, who used a part of the materials in the building of a workshop in the rear of his house. By the purchase of the Chadbourne property Captain Hatch came into possession of the before-named house and shop and a large lot of land, extending, we think, from the burying-ground to Capt. Jeremiah Paul's eastern line. By his will he devised the buildings and a part of the adjacent land to his son, Daniel L., and the remainder of the land to other heirs. Daniel L. built a large addition to the house, converting it into a desirable two-tenement residence.

The field west of the Chadbourne house—a part of the Mousam Mills grant in 1669—has been sold since 1860 and divided into four house lots; on these residences have been erected by the late Horatio Moody, William L. Thompson (now owned by Capt. William B. Nason, Jr.), Joseph Titcomb (now owned by Emory Andrews) and Edward W. Morton, M. D., respectively. Capt. George Lord purchased the Jeremiah Paul place in 1833, moved the buildings and erected a dwelling-house the following year. The lot was divided and his brother, Capt. Ivory Lord, erected a dwelling-house on the eastern half part a year later. The former was sold, after the decease of Capt. George Lord, to Joseph Dane, and is now in the possession of Mrs. F. P. Hall; the latter is still in possession of the heir of Capt. Ivory Lord, Mrs. George F. Robinson. The next lot was purchased by William Trickey (of one of the Wakefields, probably) as early as 1790; he put up a barn and on the eastern corner a tailor shop. Not being able to hold the property he sold it, May 30, 1795, to Jeremiah Paul, who bought it for his brother, Daniel Paul, who built a dwelling-house thereon, which he occupied a few years, then sold to Robert Patten, and himself moved to Sherburne, Mass. Patten's assignees, in 1817, sold the estate to James K. Remich, who resided there until his death, in 1863. He made additions, aggregating about twenty-five acres of land, to his homestead and added to and improved the buildings. The estate came into the possession of Daniel Remich, who rebuilt the house in 1865,

improved the outbuildings and the surrounding grounds; he also reduced the acreage of the estate by selling the larger part thereof.

Jacob Fisher was one of the earliest settlers on "the hill." He bought his lot, in 1785, of James Kimball, who then owned all the front land, which ran back a number of rods, on the west side of the street from the "oak post," at the eastern corner of Dr. Fisher's land, to the eastern corner of Benjamin Brown's homestead. At the time Dr. Fisher built his house, the front of which faced the west, he had an unobstructed view from his front door of the entrance to the meeting-house and, of course, of all who passed in or out. Dr. Fisher died October 27, 1840. This homestead was sold the following year and was purchased by Nathaniel L. Thompson. The dwelling-house which stood thereon was sold to Hercules H. Chadbourne, by whom it was removed to a lot opposite Elm Street, where it now stands and is owned by Mrs. Susan H. Shannon. One-half of the homestead lot was sold by Nathaniel to his brother Charles. Nathaniel erected a dwelling-house on the western part in 1842, which is still in the possession and occupancy of his heirs; Charles erected a dwelling-house a year or two later, which is now owned and occupied by Sidney T. Fuller. On the lot adjoining Nathaniel's (west) Dr. Burleigh Smart erected a dwelling-house of brick in 1825, which he occupied until his death. It was sold by his heirs to Capt. Franklin N. Thompson and is still held by his heirs. Crossing Park Street we come to the Captain Paul house, which was removed to its present location by Capt. George Lord in 1834 and by him fitted up for a double tenement. After having been occupied several years by several different tenants, it was purchased by Robert Smith, Jr., by whom it was thoroughly repaired as well as remodeled. A few rods below this is the dwelling-house built by Phineas Hemmenway (son of Rev. Dr. Hemmenway, of Wells) in 1796-7. Mr. Hemmenway married Ann Fairfield, of Pepperelborough (Hollis), in July of the year in which his house was completed, and they resided here ten or twelve years. Not meeting with the encouragement he had anticipated (he was a house carpenter), he sold his estate to Joseph Porter about 1810 and removed to an eastern town. Mr. Porter occupied it until his death in 1847. It was afterward sold to Nathan Dane, Jr., who dwelt there a few years; he sold to Hartley Lord, by whose son, George Callender, it was occupied for several years. Mr. Lord has recently put this estate in fine condition.

The next dwelling was erected by Elisha Chadbourne, about 1810. It is still held and occupied by his heirs. Adjoining this lot



was a swampy piece of land, where the frogs held "high carnival" during the warm season and where alders, pussy willows and various bushes and plants indigenous to such places abounded. To the western corner of this lot Enoch Hardy, in 1810, removed the building of which we have before spoken as Stickney & Hardy's tobacco manufactory, and in which the three printers who tried their fortunes in this town prior to 1809 located themselves during the brief period they respectively remained here. This building, from 1818 to 1822, was improved by Humphrey Chadbourne as a carpenter's shop. He was succeeded by Israel W. Bourne, who taught a private school there about two years. It was then known as the "Academy" and had the imposing addition of a belfry, wherein was a bell of somewhat modest pretensions. Bourne moved to Dover, N. H. It was subsequently occupied by two young ladies, Misses Lord and Lewis, both of Portland, who kept an excellent private school there about a year. It was afterward fitted up for a tenement house, which was occupied at various times by a number of different families. Becoming dilapidated and unseemly and withal very nearly allied to a nuisance, it was sold to some one belonging to Kennebunkport, removed to that village and used for a stable. Next to this was Porter's tin shop, built about 1808, occupied by him several years and afterward by his nephew, Levi P. Hilliard. In after years it came into possession of John G. Downing, who put on an addition by which it was just doubled in dimensions and converted the whole into the neat dwelling where he resided. Two or three rods west of this was Elisha Chadbourne's blacksmith's shop, built by him shortly after his shop in the rear of J. U. Parsons & Co.'s store had been destroyed by fire in 1824. Chadbourne occupied this new shop until his death, and was succeeded by his son Hercules, who worked there until his removal to the Port, where he was employed in ship work; he was succeeded by John G. Downing, who erected a new shop on the site of the old. Crossing Elm Street, we find a long, two-story building, built by William Taylor and one Hill early in the century. In the eastern half part, about 1809, Isaac Daniels kept a country store and later admitted as a partner Loammi Hooper. The copartnership was dissolved a year or two afterward. Hooper continued the business until his death. James Titcomb and John Skeele, copartners, traded there awhile. Waterston & Pray commenced business in the western half part of the building, where they remained until their brick store was completed. Thomas Drew succeeded them and continued there until he became a member of the

firm of J. U. Parsons & Co. He was succeeded by Dixey Stone, who traded there until an opportunity offered for going into business in Bridgton, Me., of which he availed himself, making Bridgton his home for life. Then came, in succession, Benjamin Stevens, hatter's shop; Chadbourne & Junkins, carpenters; Joseph Kimball, bakery. The chambers over this store have always been improved as a dwelling-house. This part of the property is now held by Mrs. Hewes's heirs. The eastern half part was purchased by Charles W. Williams about 1840, who added a tenement, fronting on Elm Street. Mrs. Ebenezer Huff is owner of the original half part and Mrs. Johnson Webber owns the addition, both parts fitted for dwellings. The next building was put up by Timothy Frost, in 1814; he kept a country store and auction room for many years. It is now utilized as a double tenement house and is the property of Cyrus Stevens. Passing the engine house, we come to a building erected by James Kimball about 1803. His son Jotham occupied it as a country store awhile; he removed to Waterborough about 1808. He was succeeded by Joshua Blood, a hatter. Among its many tenants, from time to time, were Titcomb & Skeelee and William Bartlett, traders; Charles W. and John T. Kimball, carriage builders; Loammi H. Kimball and Town & English, bakers; and we think several others of different occupations. It is now improved as a storehouse. Next to this, on the corner of Green and Summer Streets, stands the three-story brick building erected by Kelley & Warren about 1818. We have spoken of the numerous tenants of this building in preceding pages.

## CHAPTER VI.

### MANUFACTURING COMPANIES, 1823-1842—THE MOUSAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The "Great Falls," so-called, on the Mousam River, about five miles above the village, were purchased near the first of January, 1823, by Thomas Leigh, of South Berwick, and Isaac C. Pray, of Boston, who at once presented a petition to the Maine Legislature asking to be incorporated by the name of the "Kennebunk Manufacturing Company," which request was granted. This water power, together with some fifty acres, perhaps more, of wood and pasture land adjoining the Falls, was sold in 1825 to the purchasers of the mill privileges in the village. It has never been improved for manufacturing purposes other than mills for sawing lumber (mentioned in the preceding pages of this volume), the last of which was destroyed some one hundred and thirty years ago.

The water power in the village, improved as mill sites for the old saw and grist-mills on the east side of the river, near the bridge, and Jefferds's fulling mill on the west side, operated by water from the upper dam, and as sites for a carding mill on the east side, also a grist-mill and Pearson's tannery on the west side of the river, operated by water from the lower dam, together with all the mills and other buildings standing thereon, were purchased in the spring of 1825 by a company composed of Hacker, Brown & Co., of Philadelphia, Bumstead, of Boston, Hacker, of Salem, and Jesse Varney and Isaac Wendeli, of Dover, N. H. This company also purchased of Joseph Storer about sixty acres of woodland and twenty-five acres of grass and pasture lands, known respectively as "Storer's woods" and "Storer's pasture," adjoining the privileges on the east side of the river, and of Richard Gillpatrick his homestead, grass and pasture lands, in all fifty acres or more, adjoining the privileges on the west side of the river. Jesse Varney and others, representing this company, were incorporated by the Legislature of 1826 by the name of the "Kennebunk Manufacturing Company." Preparations were at once commenced for building a large cotton mill.



During the same session of the Legislature Daniel Sewall and others obtained a charter for a bank to be known as the "York County Bank," under which, however, no company was organized.

The Kennebunk Manufacturing Company was either unwisely managed or there must have been disagreement among its members, the result of which was that attachments were laid upon all its real and personal property in Kennebunk in October, 1828, and the whole stock in trade belonging thereto, amounting at prime cost to more than ten thousand dollars, was sold at auction, November 10, 1828, and the real estate on the first day of December following. There was sold at the same time "a large quantity of machinery for a cotton factory" nearly completed, sufficient "to set in operation fifteen hundred spindles"; also an excellent frame for a store and a blacksmith's shop well furnished.

Daniel Sewall, treasurer of the company, gave notice January 14, 1829, that the "proceeds of these sales has been greatly insufficient to satisfy all the demands against the company and it has therefore become insolvent."

The real estate belonging to the concern now came wholly in possession of Hacker, Brown & Co., of Philadelphia, and William E. Hacker, of Salem, Mass., by whom it was advertised at private sale, May 7, 1831, viz.: "The whole of the water power of the Mousam River in Kennebunk, including the 'Great Falls,' so-called, about five miles above the village (excepting only half a grist-mill), eighty-eight acres of land on the eastern side and about eighty-two acres on the western side of said river; one small factory [the Mayall building] ready to receive machinery, two dwelling-houses, a number of barns, saw-mill, half of a grist-mill, two dams, nearly new. With a very small expense the water can be conveyed from the upper dam along a natural level, so as to give about thirty-four feet fall, in a suitable place for factories to be erected and within a few rods of tide water."

A satisfactory sale of the property could not be effected and in the spring of 1832 a company was formed, consisting of Jonathan Fiske, of Dover, N. H., William E. Hacker, of Salem, Mass., M. D. Lewis, Isaiah Hacker, Jeremiah, Moses and David S. Brown, of Philadelphia, Pa., under the firm name of J. Fiske & Co., for the purpose of improving this water power and the contiguous property. The counting-room at the west end of the bridge was erected, old buildings were improved and plans, specifications, etc., were made by or under the supervision of Mr. Fiske. In April, 1832, Mr. Fiske

advertised for five hundred bushels of charcoal and in May following for timber, boards and shingles. The company petitioned the Legislature of 1834 for an act of incorporation, which was granted under the title of the "Mousam Manufacturing Company." A meeting of the corporators and other subscribers to the stock was held at the counting-room May twenty-seventh of that same year, when the company was duly organized. Jonathan Fiske was chosen agent. Very little of the stock was taken in this vicinity. William Lord, by far the most enterprising citizen of the town at the time, always ready to aid in any work that gave promise of advancing its prosperity, subscribed liberally and Robert Smith, of Kennebunkport, took a few shares.

The treasurer in his first annual report of the financial condition of the company, March, 1835, states that its capital stock is one hundred thousand dollars, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each, that seven hundred and forty-one shares have been sold and their amount, seventy-four thousand and one hundred dollars, paid into the treasury. By the annual report for 1836 it is stated that eight hundred and five shares had been sold and the sum of eighty thousand and five hundred dollars paid into the treasury. David S. Brown, of Philadelphia, treasurer of the "Mousam Manufacturing Company," gave notice January 25, 1842, that the capital stock of said company was eighty-five thousand and five hundred dollars, and that there had been assessed and paid in the amount of sixty-eight thousand one hundred and six dollars and nineteen cents.

The Jefferds fulling mill, alluded to at the commencement of this chapter, was a one-story structure situated on the west side of the river just a little below the counting-room, on the site where later was erected the principal building of the Union Lace Company. Farther down was the grist-mill owned by Jefferds and Gillpatrick; this was called the "new grist-mill." The same building was afterward improved by Leach and Lymands as a machine shop. Next below was Edmund Pierson's tanning and currying establishment, which he built and to which he removed in 1811 from the Joseph Curtis tannery on Scotchman's Brook. The last occupant of this building was J. H. Ferguson & Co., machinists, during whose occupancy it was burned to the ground. On the east side of the river, near the bridge, was the old grist-mill on the site of the present one (1890). Next below was the old Curtis house, which is still standing. At the eastern end of the lower dam, on the site where was

once a saw-mill owned by Joseph Storer, was erected a small one-story building by Messrs. Gillpatrick and Jefferds in 1811, which they leased to Mayall & Radcliffe for a carding and cloth dressing establishment and for the manufacture of satinets, and which was first occupied by them in October of that year. It was enlarged in 1813 and when completed was fifty-six feet long by thirty-six feet wide and three stories high at the southern end. Radcliffe improved the basement as a dwelling-house. The factory business was increased the following year by installing two machines, one for spinning and the other for weaving woolen yarn. Good cloth was manufactured by them for clothing. This was the first cloth manufactory in town. Both members of the firm were Englishmen and they were excellent workmen, industrious and enterprising, but their business in its results did not come up to their anticipations. Mayall was drowned in 1816 and the following year Radcliffe closed out the business and returned to Shapleigh, from whence he came. The carding and cloth dressing business was continued by Jefferds & Hussey (Nathaniel Jefferds and Paul Hussey) until 1820, when they dissolved copartnership, Jefferds continuing his business on the west side of the river and Hussey retaining the factory. After the purchase of the water privilege by the Kennebunk Manufacturing Company, in 1825, Jefferds retired from the business and Hussey put up a cloth dressing mill on the west side of Cat Mousam Falls, which he completed in 1827. Jonathan Kimball succeeded Hussey in the factory and installed new carding machines therein, which were set in motion June 3, 1825. In June of the year following Mr. Kimball entered into partnership with William Jefferds, removing the carding machines from the old factory to the shop then recently vacated by Nathaniel Jefferds on the west side of the river, where he continued the business of carding and cloth dressing. We note that this business was kept up for a number of years, as on May 28, 1836, the agent advertises for twelve good power loom weavers of fine goods, application to be made to Moses Fiske, superintendent.

The old factory was converted into a machine shop by the Manufacturing Company during the summer of 1826 and was destroyed by fire in November, 1841. The shop contained several thousand dollars' worth of machinery, only a small portion of which was saved and which was but partially insured. The building was uninsured. The flames communicated to a small building near by, where a quantity of machinery and waste cotton were stored, which, however, sustained but trifling damage. The fire was supposed to



have originated from a defective chimney. The plans of the company were greatly deranged by this unfortunate occurrence. Daniel Daggett was agent of the company at the time.

Just above the bridge was a saw-mill, which was taken down and near its site a two-story building was put up by Oliver Littlefield for the manufacture of cotton twine, batting, etc. It was operated by Littlefield, Jabez Smith, George Mendum and John A. Lord. The Hewitt mill site was later covered by the Davis shoe shop.

#### THE MOUSAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The only objection to the village water power, as a location for an extensive manufacturing establishment, mentioned by the corporators of the Kennebunk Manufacturing Company (1826) was the cost of transportation to and from a market where their goods must be delivered and their purchases made, it being fully four miles distant from the nearest point at which the former could be shipped hence by coasters, and of course the same distance from the wharves where the raw material, machinery, etc., brought to them must be landed, thus subjecting the company to no inconsiderable expense for cartage. It was estimated in 1826 that not less than one thousand dollars per annum were paid by the business men in the village for the transportation, by teams, of goods and merchandise to and from the Port. This intimation revived the old-time project of improving the Mousam so as to render it navigable for sea-going vessels of two hundred or three hundred tons burden.

The petition of Daniel Sewall and others, for authority to build a dam across the Mousam River for the purpose of improving its navigation, was presented to the Legislature of Maine for 1826, by which the desired act of incorporation was granted. Later in the session a bill authorizing a lottery in aid of the improvement of Mousam River by a canal, dams, etc., passed to be engrossed in the Senate. Several other bills granting lotteries for bridges, mining companies and other unimportant objects, in different parts of the State, were before the Legislature at the same time, all of which were subsequently incorporated in one bill, and in this form passed to be engrossed by the Senate. The House voted to indefinitely postpone, and the Senate—only eleven members being present—concurred with the lower branch in thus disposing of the matter.

The *Gazette* of the twenty-fifth of March and of the first of April contains editorials and communications which indicate that the subject excited a good deal of interest, but we infer, from allusions

therein made, that the stockholders in the company organized in 1793—many of whom were active business men in 1826—who made a sad mistake in causing their new outlet to be excavated on the eastern side of Great Hill, opposed this new scheme of changing the course of the river so that it would empty its waters into the ocean through a canal to be made on the western side of this ancient landmark, the carrying of which into effect would require dams, etc., that would render all the labors of the old company entirely nugatory. The lack of sound judgment on the part of those who, more than thirty years previously, had selected the eastern instead of the western side of the hill for their outlet was often referred to—probably too often—and in terms not altogether respectful, and they did not care that this arraignment of their action should be proved by their accusers to be well grounded. The influence of these stockholders, and the fact that the manufacturing company had disappointed the expectations of the citizens by failing to push forward its work as energetically as it had been supposed they would, caused the failure of the new project. We find no evidence that a company was organized under the charter granted by the Legislature of 1826.

A bill appropriating two hundred dollars for a survey to ascertain the practicability of improving the navigation and channel of Mousam River, in Kennebunk, Maine, and also appropriating one hundred dollars for an additional survey of Wells Harbor, to ascertain the expense and expediency of extending the piers already built, passed both houses of Congress toward the close of the session of 1830, and was sent to President Jackson for approval; it was retained by the President and consequently did not become a law.

In December, 1833, a petition to Congress was prepared asking that "the unexpended balance of the appropriation for building the lighthouse at Cape Porpoise, amounting it is believed to about three thousand dollars, may be applied to the removal of obstructions at the mouth of Mousam River," whereby said river "has been for a number of years unnavigable for vessels above twenty tons." This petition was generally signed by the business men in the village, but for some reason was not forwarded to Washington; perhaps it was found that the balance of appropriation was considerably less than had been represented, or that by some departmental rule or other cause it was not available for the desired object.

At an early hour one day near the close of the summer months, in 1845, three persons took a yawl boat from its mooring at the

"Creek," sailed down the river and out to sea for the purpose of catching fish. The day had been fine and the catch satisfactory, when, about the middle of the afternoon, the clouds began to look threatening and it was resolved to make for the mouth of the river with all possible dispatch. On reaching the "Ledge," on the way up river, it was found that the tide had just begun to flow and that they must remain there until the rocks were covered sufficiently to allow the boat to pass over them, which would cause a detention of two or three hours. While waiting, a thunder storm came up, accompanied with high wind; "thick darkness enveloped the earth" before they were enabled to get over the ledge. As they proceeded, now grounding on a bend and now cautiously plying their oars, the rain poured down in torrents and the wind blew a gale, while sharp lightning and heavy thunder added to the dismalness of their surroundings. Their situation was uncomfortable as well as dangerous. About midnight they neared the landing place, when the moon kindly peered through the clouds and assisted them in mooring the boat. The following day these men were describing their perilous adventure to a company of bystanders; a gentleman who was about to pass by this company was requested to stop a few moments and the story of their narrow escape was told to him, at the close of which it was earnestly asked: "Can we not have a new outlet to the sea and will you not interest yourself in the matter?" To the suggestion that perhaps blasting the ledge would be a better course to pursue, the answer was: "That would be a costly job; it is very doubtful if it could be accomplished, and, if so, it would require an expenditure of money so large that there is hardly a possibility that it could be raised."

This conversation led to the movement having for its object the straightening of the Mousam and the opening of a new outlet through which its waters could reach the ocean. The subject was generally discussed by the citizens, and a few of them resolved to petition the Legislature for a charter and to take such other measures, looking to the successful prosecution of the desired improvement, as might be found necessary.

A petition was presented at the May session of the State Legislature of 1846, signed by Daniel Remich, William B. Sewall, William Lord, Jabez Smith, Barnabas Palmer, James and John Osborn, William Hackett, Joseph Titcomb and William F. Lord. The petitioners represent "that the Mousam River is not at present navigable for vessels of sufficient burden to be profitably employed in the



coasting or fishing business; that they believe that by opening a different channel to the sea and by straightening the river at various points it might be essentially improved and rendered navigable for vessels of considerable size, thereby adding to the prosperity of the town of Kennebunk, the adjoining towns and the interior country; that said river was formerly of sufficient depth to render the building of vessels of two hundred tons and upwards practicable, a distance of about three miles from its mouth. Your petitioners would therefore pray that they, with such others as may associate with them, their successors and assigns, may be formed into a body corporate by the name of the 'Mousam Navigation Company,' with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars, with all the powers, privileges and immunities usually granted to such bodies, and duly authorized and empowered to build a dam across the present river or canal (so-called) at any place between the mouth thereof and the head of tide water, and to turn the course of said river so that it may run into the sea at any place between the present mouth of the river and its mouth as it formerly run, and also to cut off any bends at any point on said river, or to straighten it in any part thereof, and to build any other dam or dams, or raise any embankments on said river, which may be deemed necessary to promote the objects of your petitioners; to build wharves or any other necessary fixtures at such points as they may consider expedient; to hold real and personal property; to collect a reasonable toll on all boats or vessels of ten tons or upwards which may enter said river (after a new entrance shall have been opened) and to collect reasonable wharfage of all such vessels, etc., as may improve their wharves. They also pray that the exclusive right of steam navigation on said river, for the term of thirty years, may be granted to them."

At the annual town meeting held in March, 1846, the following resolution was passed without a dissenting voice:—

*"Resolved*, That we, the inhabitants of Kennebunk, in town meeting assembled, do approve of the measure therein [the petition above named] proposed and of the whole language of the petition, and do cordially wish that the prayer of the petitioners may be granted by the Legislature."

The town also voted that this resolution be recorded on the town records and that "certified copies thereof be forwarded by the selectmen, in their official capacity, to the representative of this district and to the senators from this county, to be by them laid before the Legislature in furtherance of the object of the petitioners."

Through the exertions of William C. Allen, of Alfred, a senator from this county, and Tobias Walker, our town representative, the petition received early attention in the Legislature; a bill in accordance with its prayer was reported, which passed through the various stages required by the legislative rules without any unnecessary delay. The first meeting of the corporators was held July 30, 1846, when the charter was accepted, the necessary officers were chosen and a code of by-laws was adopted. Five directors were elected, who made choice of William Lord as president of the directors and the corporation. William B. Sewall was elected clerk of the directors and of the corporation. Joseph Titcomb was chosen treasurer. The directors subsequently made choice of Daniel Remich as general agent.

August third and fourth the clerk and general agent made an examination of the river, from the old town landing to its mouth, for the purpose of ascertaining the best point at which to commence a preliminary survey thereof. The survey, under the direction of L. K. Dorrance, was commenced on the thirty-first of August and was completed in three days. Mr. Dorrance found the levels on the river as follows: "Difference of level between low water mark at the sea and high water mark at the 'old stump,'  $6\frac{7\frac{3}{10}}{100}$  feet. Tide flows at the sea,  $11\frac{1\frac{9}{10}}{100}$  feet. Tide flows at the 'old stump,'  $4\frac{4\frac{7}{10}}{100}$  feet."

A few days later contracts were made with several persons for excavating a canal through the marsh (a sufficient strip of land for the purpose having been purchased by the company) from its commencement nearly opposite the thatch beds, a few rods below the town bridge on the Mousam, to the sea wall, which distance was divided into twenty-seven stations, each four rods in length, making a total of seventeen hundred and eighty-two feet, the excavation to be eighteen feet wide and six feet deep. Before letting out the contracts, the general agent caused ten pits to be dug on the strip of marsh above named, at proper distances from each other, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a ledge or other obstruction existed that would interfere with the work of excavation. Between the twenty-first of September and the twenty-first of October the new canal was completed as far as the sea-wall and a contract made for its extension through this to the sea.

There was a difference of opinion respecting the best point for the location of the dam across the river, and it was thought prudent to employ a civil engineer to examine the premises and decide the question. He recommended that it should be built where it now

stands, a third of a mile below the commencement of the new canal. This was the second great mistake. The directors and agent were surprised at this decision; they were of the opinion that any one of common discernment would readily perceive that it should be located either just below the commencement of the canal, running from the western bank to the thatch beds and from the thatch beds to the eastern bank, or, as many thought preferable, across the river fifty or seventy-five feet below these beds, in order to attain the object of turning the water into the new channel. They concluded, however, to forego their own impressions and adopt the plan of the engineer, hoping that another dam, near the thatch beds,—where it was evident to them it must be located to be of any practical benefit,—would be erected in the near future.

The idea had been entertained, founded it was believed on a sound basis, that six feet below the surface of the marsh sand would, generally, be reached, which would be loosened and carried off by the action of the tides, and thus at no remote period sufficiently deepen the channel. While digging through the marsh it was discovered that this theory was not entirely correct; that from six to eight feet below the surface, equal to fully three-fourths its entire length, the turf was in layers, six to twelve inches in thickness, full of rootlets and exceedingly tough; on examination it appeared that water running over these strata made no more impression upon them than it would in running over stones. This tenacious turf extended in many places, especially on the site of the sea-wall and two or three rods beyond it, to the depth of eight feet, and at some points even deeper. It was proved, therefore, that the canal should be excavated two or three feet deeper than originally designed in order to overcome this obstacle. Under the circumstances, it was considered by the directors and agent advisable to postpone further work until the next spring, after causing a sufficient opening to be made in the dam for the passage of the water by its usual course to the sea. But there was feverish impatience manifested by many persons; the often-repeated and senseless expressions, "Oh, there can be no doubt that everything will come out right," "*We know* there will be no trouble," became wearisome. Neither the agent nor any one of the directors had the slightest personal interest in the matter; through earnest solicitations they had engaged in the work as "a labor of love," with no other object than the public good, at the cost of time and labor which they could ill spare from the needs of their business pursuits; they had carried it forward



with wonderful success; they were not disposed to exercise their authority and peremptorily declare that work *must* cease and the opening be delayed until spring, the outcome of which would have been "a war of words," and all cheerfully acquiesced in the proposition of the president: "If they think they know more about it than we do, let us yield and see how it will come out." They accordingly authorized the agent to give notice that the new canal would be opened November fifth. On that day a large number of men, many with teams, assembled on the beach at an early hour for the purpose of aiding, gratuitously, in excavating, plowing, and removing rocks from the sea-wall and beach to the dam. At eleven o'clock the agent ordered the last barrier to the free passage of water through the canal to be cut away, and the waters of the Mousam, through the new canal, mingled with those of the Atlantic. Several boats passed through the canal the same afternoon. Several coasters, during the following winter, loaded with cord wood near the bank of the *original* course of the river and sailed thence for a western port. It has, in consequence of the adverse causes above named, made no progress toward river-hood. The water runs through it, but it is a mere passage way for small boats,—a striking exemplification of the truth of the old adages, "Haste makes waste," "Too many cooks are sure to spoil the broth."

A petition was presented to Congress in December, 1846, which, after briefly stating facts in reference to the making of the new outlet, proceeds as follows: "But as said new outlet passes through a long distance of flats or beach, it becomes important that a monument should be erected at its mouth for the guidance and direction of vessels entering the harbor. Your petitioners believe that said harbor is to become of great importance to this vicinity, and also of great service to navigation on the coast, as it is anticipated that it will be a safe and convenient place for coasters to put in, in cases of stress of weather, the channel being so cut that those winds which usually attend our most severe storms are favorable for entrance into it. Your petitioners believe that one thousand dollars would erect a good and sufficient stone monument for the purpose aforesaid." We cannot give any account of the action of Congress on this petition. We are quite sure that its prayer was not granted.

## CHAPTER VII.

### SHIPBUILDING 1820-1882 — THE LOCK — MARINE ITEMS — THE SEA SERPENT.

In the first half of this book we have given a history of shipbuilding in Kennebunk from its earliest settlement to the incorporation of the town, as full and correct as the materials at our command would enable us to prepare. Shipbuilding was the leading industry for considerably more than a century and we consider it important that its history should be continued, as briefly as possible, but in a form that will show its years of prosperity and of depression, the gradual increase in the tonnage of vessels built from year to year and other interesting particulars.

The Landing in 1820 was a busy locality, much activity being manifested in the way of shipbuilding along the banks of the Kennebunk River, there being seven shipyards in all, viz.: Nathaniel Gillpatrick's, back of his dwelling-place (now Thomas Crocker's); David Little's, back of his homestead (afterward occupied by Elijah Betts); John Bourne's, back of his homestead (his successors being George W. Bourne and later Bourne & Kingsbury; Jacob Perkins's, a short distance below the above-named (afterward occupied by James Titcomb and by Joseph and George Titcomb); George and Ivory Lord's, a few rods farther down river (occupied in later years by Robert Smith, Jr., and by Mark Poole); Isaac Kilham's, a few rods below (afterward improved by several different persons as a building yard for vessels of small burden); then came Hugh McCulloch's, situated next to the last-named.

It was found that the freighting business to and from foreign ports, which had been gradually increasing in importance at our commercial centers since the close of the War of 1812-15, required for its successful prosecution a larger class of vessels than had hitherto been employed in the merchant service. It was not, however, until about 1830 that our shipbuilders began to be influenced by this change, and in 1841 contractors and builders had become accustomed to larger totals in figuring the tonnage of ships. From 1820-30 there were built in Kennebunk thirteen ships, forty-two

brigs and five schooners, with a total tonnage of 12,252. From 1830-40, twelve ships, twelve barks, eleven brigs, one sloop and twelve schooners; total tonnage, 10,896. From 1840-50, twenty-six ships, twelve barks, eight brigs, six schooners; tonnage, 20,557. From 1850-60, forty-nine ships, seven barks, seven brigs, twenty-two schooners and thirteen boats; tonnage, 51,432. From 1860-70, twenty-six ships, fifteen barks, seven brigs, two steamers and seventy-three schooners; tonnage, 47,634. From 1870-80, twenty ships, four barks, four barkentines, four steamers, one sloop and fifty-nine schooners; tonnage, 42,021. As will be seen, the fractions of tonnage have been omitted.

In the meantime the West India trade, which had been until within a few years the mainstay of the ship owners in this district, had greatly diminished, so that in 1840 it was confined to one firm—Capt. Eliphalet Perkins, Sr., and Sons—by whom three large brigs were employed. These were usually loaded with lumber at this port, their outward destination being Ponce, Porto Rico, where the firm enjoyed unusual facilities for the sale of lumber and other exports, as well as for the purchasing of the products of the island. The cargoes taken on board at Ponce were generally landed at Philadelphia, New York or Boston, and the brigs returned to this port in ballast. Three trips per annum was the customary number. The principal cause of the falling off in this trade was that the quantity of lumber drawn into this market from the neighborhood and the interior had greatly diminished, while the inferiority of its quality was yearly becoming more and more apparent, all attributable to the fact that the forests in this section had been comparatively stripped of the more valuable portions of their pine growth.

The demand for vessels of larger tonnage led our shipbuilders to the serious consideration of obstacles in the Kennebunk River that had not in olden time been an object of solicitude. Even at the highest tides there was not a sufficient depth of water in the river to cover the upper and lower falls (except for a short space of time) "on the top of the tide," so as to render the passage of large hulls from the building yards to the wharves free from difficulty and danger even. In addition to this source of vexation, anxiety and expense, it was frequently found necessary to wait several days for a "high run of tides" after a hull was ready to be launched. The project of a lock, just below the lower falls and about three-fourths of a mile from the wharves,—which, we think, originated with Messrs. Joseph and George P. Titcomb,—was suggested and was



very favorably received by all interested in the shipbuilding industry on the river. A stock company was formed for the purpose of building and improving the proposed dam, and an act of incorporation, under the title of the "Kennebunk River Company," was obtained from the Maine Legislature of 1847. Its erection was commenced at an early day thereafter, under the supervision of the late George P. Titcomb and a board of directors. The length of the structure, across the river, was between eighty and ninety feet, about seventy-five of which, on each side, was built of large blocks of split granite; these walls were fourteen feet high, having a base of four feet, narrowing to a width of thirty inches at the top course. Between these walls and attached thereto was a gate, in two parts, constructed of white pine plank, bolted in the most thorough manner, massive and substantial. The method of operating was this: When a vessel had been launched and was ready to be taken through the gates (which opened in the up-river direction), they were closed at high water, thus insuring the continuance of its depth at that mark, which would be increased somewhat by the natural flow of fresh water from its source and auxiliaries, thus covering the falls, the hull was then towed down river and when the falls had been passed the gates were opened, and it glided through and on its course easily and securely.

The lock was completed in 1849. The first vessel that passed through was the ship *Ophelia*, five hundred and ninety-seven tons, in the autumn of that year. The structure answered the purpose for which it was built satisfactorily in every particular, and a large number of vessels glided through during the eighteen years it was in operation. Many changes had taken place in the course of this term of years, through which the lock had become valueless. To meet the demands of contractors, the tonnage of ships built at the yards had been increasing from year to year, until it was found that the width of the river was less than was required for the launching of them conveniently and safely; building yards had been erected at the Port which were well situated and free from the inconvenience just named; the receipts of timber and plank from the interior had materially decreased and it was found necessary to obtain a considerable portion of these materials from the South, thus subjecting the Landing builders to the trouble and expense of transferring cargoes from shipboard to rafts or gondolas, by means of which they were transported up river. These and other considerations led to the abandonment of the shipyards at the Landing and the erecting of others

at the Port. In the spring of 1867 the ship *Arcturus* passed through the lock and in the fall of the same year the bark *Hawthorne* was taken through; these closed the list. Shipbuilding was no longer pursued at the Landing; perhaps a few small craft or boats might have been built there subsequently. The plats of ground which for a century were resonant with sounds of the saw, the axe, the mallet and the cheery voices of the shipbuilders are no longer marked by the "hum of industry." The aforetime building yards were fenced in and were, as now, improved for pasturage, tillage or mowing fields, an exemplification of the mutations in men and things constantly occurring and unavoidable, bearing hard on localities, but resulting in the general good. A portion of the granite blocks of which the lock was constructed were utilized in the underpinning of the Davis shoe shop.

During the Civil War gunboats were built by order of the national government at different ports. The gunboat *Aroostook* was built at the yards of Capt. N. L. Thompson and sailed in January, 1862, for Boston, there to receive her armament.

Among some of the largest vessels that have been built since 1874 of more than fourteen hundred tons were the *Ocean King*, of two thousand five hundred and sixteen tons, Capt. N. L. Thompson builder, *St. John Smith*, *Sierra Nevada*, *The Trojan*, *J. B. Brown*, *Defiant*, *The Rembrant*, *Grecian*, *Philena Winslow*, *The Vigilant*, *Pharos*, *The Wachusett* and *Reuce*.

No large vessels have been built at our shipyards since 1882. Work in the few yards that have been in operation since that date has been confined to the building of small vessels and to occasional jobs of repairing dilapidated hulls. The principal building yard in prosperous times is now owned by the Kennebunk and Kennebunkport Railroad Company, which with contiguous lots affords an excellent site for the depot and other buildings that are required at its eastern terminus.

#### MARINE ITEMS OF INTEREST GATHERED MOSTLY FROM FILES OF THE WEEKLY VISITER AND GAZETTE.

A schooner called the "*Waterborough*," of about forty-three tons burden, was built in Waterborough, under the supervision of Aaron Bourne, of Wells, during the fall and winter of 1819 and '20, which was drawn on sleds to tide water, a distance of about eighteen miles. On her land passage the oxen were unyoked at nightfall on

"Zion's Hill," and the vessel remained there until the following morning, while the men employed found accommodations at the "victualling cellar" and the oxen were furnished with food and shelter in the "long barn" belonging to that establishment. All were on duty in good season the next morning, when the craft was drawn to the Landing, where she was successfully launched just below Durrell's Bridge.

The hull, rigging and all materials saved from the wreck of the brig Merchant, then lying on the beach, were sold at auction the tenth of April, 1820.

Brig Atlas, of Kennebunk, Luther Walker master, Bourne and Low owners, while lying in the harbor of Mayaguez, Porto Rico, on the night of the fourth of December, 1820, was boarded by twenty-one negroes; armed with guns, swords, cutlasses and knives, who seized the two men on watch and secured the entrances to the cabin and forecastle. All efforts of the captain and those of the crew who were in the forecastle were fruitless. The negroes immediately cut the cables, loosened the sails and put to sea. After being detained nearly two hours below deck, the captain and crew were permitted to come up and were ordered to make sail immediately. The negroes stated that they were runaway slaves and were determined to go to Hispaniola and become the subjects of Boyer and thus become freemen. Captain Walker, who was powerless against the gang, proceeded to Jacquemel, where he arrived on the eighth. Here he found Captain Tripp, of Kennebunk, and the captain of a Boston vessel, who were of much service to him. The negroes were all landed, to the great relief of Captain Walker and no doubt highly gratified with the successful issue of their *coup de main*.

Under date of January 31, 1821, the *Visiter* says: "The harbor has been so frozen, quite to its entrance, for the past ten or twelve days, that no vessels could go in or out, but the ice is now beginning to leave the river. There has been but one arrival here from a foreign port since the twenty-eighth of December."

July, 1822. Sloop Harriet, of Wells, fifty-one tons burden, went ashore on the beach a short distance eastward of Wells Harbor; the wreck was sold at auction "for the benefit of all concerned."

The fishing schooner Orient, of Kennebunk, Huff master, eighteen tons burden, was captured on the twenty-seventh of July, 1822, by the British armed brig Argus, and sent into St. John, N. B.



The alleged cause of the capture was the taking of fish in the British waters. The real offense was the digging of about one peck of clams in a small harbor near Liverpool, N. B. Captain Huff and crew arrived home in September via Belfast, having taken passage at St. John on board the schooner Venus, of and for Belfast.

Brig Rebecca Ann, Nathan T. Walker, of Kennebunk (aged thirty-one years), master, Thomas Stone, of Kennebunk (aged twenty-four years), first mate, loaded with fish, beef, etc., sprung a leak in March, 1823, when eight days from Boston, bound for Porto Rico, and was compelled to put back. She was wrecked near Fresh Water Cove, Gloucester, and immediately went to pieces; all on board perished excepting one seaman, who succeeded in reaching the shore in safety. Mr. Robert Parker, of Eastport, was on board as a passenger and Capt. John Whitten, of Kennebunk, as supercargo. The bodies of all were recovered and interred at Gloucester.

Piracies were alarmingly frequent in the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indian seas between the years 1820 and 1824. Not only were vessels plundered, but atrocious acts of cruelty were perpetrated on the persons of officers and crews, as well as passengers, by these marine miscreants. No national flag was respected; all who fell within their grasp were robbed and, with rare exceptions, all on board were murdered or shamefully maltreated. These piratical cruisers were manned chiefly by Spanish, Portuguese or Africans, and the rendezvous of these devils in human shape was at a place called Fareaus, thirty or forty miles to the windward of Cape Antonio; this cape was an accursed spot, the vicinity of which it was dangerous for vessels to approach. The national government was severely censured for its tardiness in adopting measures for the destruction of these demoniacal monsters. During the last half of the year 1822, however, our naval force in the West Indies was increased and considerable activity was manifested in the work of capturing the freebooters. Twenty-two piratical vessels, besides barges and boats engaged in the same nefarious business, were taken by our war vessels. A squadron was fitted out at Norfolk, composed of the sloop of war Peacock and schooner Shark in addition to fifteen small vessels especially calculated for effective service in hunting and seizing the armed vessels and smaller craft employed in piratical operations. The British government also sent a strong force into the infested seas to aid in the extirpation of the common enemy, which was efficient and successful.

Among the saddest of the narratives of robbery and murder by these bloodthirsty wretches is that of the seizure of the brig *Bellisarius*, of Kennebunk, and the horrible murder of its captain, Clement Perkins. While the brig was lying at the port of Campeachy, in March, 1823, she was boarded by a piratical schooner of about forty tons burden, "manned with a crew of forty brutes in human shape," who stabbed Captain Perkins in several places and cut off his left arm. The captain then informed them where they would find the money that was on board, which amounted to two hundred doubloons. This did not satisfy the fiends, who were probably disappointed in not obtaining a larger sum of money, and believing that more was secreted in some other part of the brig they proceeded in their murderous work by cutting off the right arm and also one of his legs above the knee; "they then dipped a quantity of oakum in oil and after filling the mouth of poor Perkins with this combustible they placed him in the oakum and setting fire to it soon terminated his sufferings." The mate was stabbed through the thigh. The brig was robbed of every movable article and then given up to the mate and crew. They arrived at the Balize on the twenty-first of March. The late Capt. Thomas Lord, of this town, was one of the crew.

Captain Perkins was the son of Capt. George Perkins, of this town, who moved here early in the century from Kennebunkport.<sup>1</sup> He was thirty years of age at the time he was murdered. When about fourteen years old he was apprenticed to Benjamin Smith to learn the baker's trade; two or three years later he entertained a strong desire to become a seaman. As Mr. Smith was part owner of two or three vessels, he consented that young Perkins should abandon the shop for the forecastle, and he at once shipped as cook. Well-behaved, industrious and trustworthy, he gradually rose from this position to that of captain, in which capacity he performed all his duties very acceptably. On his last voyage he had sold his cargo of lumber at Campeachy for cash, and was about to sail for another of the West India islands when his earthly career was arrested in the horrible manner as related. The editor of the *Gazette* speaks of him "as a man universally esteemed by his townsmen and other acquaintances for his industry, sobriety and integrity."

We believe no other of the many vessels belonging to this port then actively engaged in the West India trade fell into the hands of

<sup>1</sup> See biographical sketch.

the pirates. A brig belonging to a neighboring port was taken and vessel and cargo retained by the freebooters, who sent the officers and crew (one of whom was David Warren, of Saco, a cousin to the late Alexander Warren, of Kennebunk,) to an uninhabited and sterile island or sand bar, and left with them a few provisions, sufficient only to sustain their lives for a day or two; no water could be obtained, no vegetation could be seen. These men, with the exception of Warren, who had died of thirst, were rescued through the efforts of a person who was a prisoner on board the pirate at the time the eastern brig was taken and her crew left on the sand bar, who managed to escape a day or two afterward and to reach an island where pirates were not the controlling power. On his representation of the facts to the authorities, a boat was sent to their relief and the nearly famished ones were saved.

Brig *Bellisarius*, of Kennebunk, Peabody, arrived at the Bar August 10, 1825, having met with a severe gale on the thirty-first of July, during which she lost mainmast, sails, rigging and spars. She sailed from this port on the twenty-fifth of July for the West Indies, with a cargo of lumber, but was compelled to put back for repairs.

The wreck of schooner *Lark*, of and from Wells, Forster master, bound for Martinique, was fallen in with September 15, 1825, by an American brig from St. Domingo and bound to Cowes. The schooner had been upset, both masts gone, water logged and the captain drowned. Five persons were taken from the bowsprit, viz.: John Welch, John Harvey, Samuel Pope, Charles O. Pope and Willsbury Dowdie.

George Wheelwright was for many years employed in the custom house while it was located in Kennebunk and after its removal to Kennebunkport as deputy collector, and for four years, 1825 to 1829, as collector of the Port and District of Kennebunk. He was an excellent officer and a very worthy citizen, but he was not a believer in the necessity or propriety of the multiplicity of "custom house oaths" required by law. He at one time related to the author the following anecdote in support of his view of the subject. The thirty-first day of December, 18—, "fishing bounty day," was cold and stormy. Mr. Wheelwright was at the custom house considerably before the usual hour, in order that early applicants for bounty money should not be kept waiting. His first visitor was the owner of a large fishing boat which he well knew



had laid at the wharf during the larger part of the then past fishing season, only now and then being employed for a day or perhaps a week in fishing. After discussing the weather, etc., his visitor, who was a member of a church in "good standing" and who was really a very estimable man, announced his readiness to sign and make oath to the requisite papers and receive his bounty money. Mr. Wheelwright asked him if he could conscientiously swear that his boat had been actually employed in fishing for the term of four months and that there had been caught and cured by her crew twelve quintals of fish when cured to the ton. "O sartinly," was the answer; "the boat has been at sea long enough and there have been enough fish caught and cured to arn the bounty." The necessary papers were then made out, duly signed, the oath administered and the bounty paid. The storm continued and, as no one came in, the two men sat down and engaged in conversation for a short time. When the recipient of the bounty was about taking leave, Mr. Wheelwright said to him: "Now about your bounty, can you say upon your word and honor that your boat has been at sea a sufficient length of time and that her crew have caught and cured a sufficient quantity of fish the past season to entitle her to the bounty?" "Well, well, squire," was the answer, "come to put it to my word and honor, I can't say that she has."

The steam brig New York, Captain Harrod, which left Portland on Tuesday, August 22, 1826, for Eastport, took fire near one of the flues about nine o'clock P. M. on the following Thursday, when about eight miles distant from Petit Menin Lighthouse, and was entirely consumed. There were fourteen passengers on board and the officers and crew numbered eighteen, all of whom were saved, reaching the island by the boats of the steamer about eleven P. M. The island is about seven miles distant from the mainland. Among the passengers were Miss Hannah C. Little and Miss Sarah Tucker, of Kennebunk, and Mrs. Oliver N. Allen and child, of Lubec. Miss Tucker, in a letter to her father, Mr. Stephen Tucker, gave a graphic and very interesting account of the accident, of their landing on the island, and of their journey of seventy miles to Lubec, their place of destination, by fishing boats, pedestrianism and stage. Extracts from this letter were published in the *Gazette*. She says: "I lost everything excepting what I had on (which was the meanest I had), my habit, shawl and bonnet; Mrs. Allen and Miss Little were as unfortunate as myself and lost everything."

The steamer Tom Thumb, Seward Porter master, of Portland, visited Kennebunkport September 30, 1827, and taking on board about one hundred ladies and gentlemen, belonging to Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, "made an excursion to the islands of Cape Porpoise, where the party partook of an excellent chowder and other refreshments." We think that this was the first steamer on the waters of the Kennebunk River.

The ship Delos, Charles Williams master, of and for this port from Liverpool, sprung a leak while scudding in a severe gale, in longitude 45, September 16, 1831. It was found impossible to stop the leak. In a sinking condition, with eight feet of water in her hold, it was found necessary, on the eighteenth, to abandon her. Fortunately a bark, which proved to be the Frances Mary, from Ireland for Quebec, was in sight and answered their signal of distress, taking on board the officers and crew, who were landed at Quebec on the eleventh of October. The Delos was partly loaded with salt and copper; a quantity of specie and a few hundred weight of copper were saved. The ship was insured and the cargo partially insured in Boston.

The tide rose to an unusual height in Wells Bay on the twenty-second of November, 1831,—it was thought fully three feet higher than common high tides,—as high or higher, at our wharves, than ever before known. A small quantity of wood was swept from the wharves, but no material damage was done here or at Wells.

Congress, in 1831, appropriated six thousand dollars for a lighthouse at or near Cape Porpoise. A remonstrance against the erection of this lighthouse was sent to Washington from Portland; it was urged that another situated so near the Boon Island and Wood Island Lights would do more harm than good. The *Gazette* of the twenty-sixth of December advocates very strongly the erection of a lighthouse and shows the futility of the arguments used by the Portland petitioners, and notices several errors in their statements, one of which was that Boon Island Light was only six miles distant from Cape Porpoise. Boon Island, we believe, is twenty-one miles distant from the Cape, and Wood Island nine miles distant therefrom. The remonstrance was fruitless.

The bark Augusta Blaisdell, of Kennebunk, bound from Cadiz, July 13, 1837, to Boston, sprung a leak August fifth. It was found impossible to stop the leak or to do effectual work with the pumps. The captain, officers and crew abandoned the vessel at six P. M. on

the following day, and were taken on board the French brig *Active*, which was at anchor, fishing, near by. Nothing was saved except the clothing of the officers and crew. At about eleven o'clock the next forenoon the *Augusta* was seen sinking, her stern being completely blown out. The *Augusta* was a good vessel, three years old, and was insured for fifteen thousand dollars. Her cargo of salt was uninsured.

The bark *Horace*, of Kennebunk, Leander Foss captain, which sailed from New Orleans April 10, 1838, bound for Liverpool, anchored off Kennebunk Harbor on the second day of May, her crew being in a state of mutiny. The mutiny commenced on the eighteenth of April, off the coast of Florida, and it was alleged without any provocation on the part of the captain or other officers. One of the mutineers was armed with a pistol, heavily loaded, which was taken from him by the captain. The ringleaders, four in number, were taken into custody and conveyed to Portland, where the United States Circuit Court was then in session. Bills were found against them by the Grand Jury; two of them pleaded guilty and were sentenced by the judge to sixty days each in the county jail, the other two were discharged.

During the night of May fifth, in a severe gale from east, south-east, the bark parted both her cables at about midnight, and drifting westerly struck upon the ledges off Oakes's Neck, where she thumped badly, lost her rudder and false keel, and bilged; drifting thence about half a mile farther in the same direction, she grounded on Boothby's Beach, near the "Two Acres," about one hundred and fifty yards below high water mark. As the gale continued with unabated violence, with a tremendous sea running, and the vessel was fast filling, she was abandoned by all on board, — the pilot, an able and capable seaman from Kennebunkport, the officers and all the crew. The next morning the bark was found to be upright, her masts standing broadside toward the shore, and preparations were made for dismantling her and removing the cargo, which, as it was impossible to land it with boats, could only be done at low water and with teams, a slow and tedious process.

The *Horace* was a first-class vessel of three hundred and eighty-nine tons burden, built in Scarborough the previous season, and was on her maiden voyage. She was owned by Charles C. and Orlando Perkins and Captain Foss, of Kennebunkport, and Joseph Hatch, Jr., of Kennebunk. Vessel and freight were insured in Boston for



thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars. The cargo was insured in London. The cargo, consisting of about twelve hundred bales of cotton, was sold at auction, on Boothby's Beach, June sixth. The auction was attended by a large number of men from different towns in New England. The cotton sold at prices ranging from twenty-nine to fifty-three dollars per bale (a bale was estimated to contain about four hundred and twenty pounds). A lot of one hundred and sixty-three bales, remaining in the lower hold of the bark, sold for eleven hundred and twenty-five dollars. The hull of the bark was also bidden for and sold in the same way.

Brig Swiss Boy, Captain Blaisdell, of this port, was run into on the night of the twenty-eighth of December, 1839, off and near Stirrup Key, by the ship William Engs, of Newport, R. I. She was so seriously injured that it was considered advisable, after remaining by her twenty-four hours, to abandon her. Captain Blaisdell and crew were taken on board the William Engs and landed at Havana.

Ship Oakland was built at the Landing by Henry Kingsbury and was launched May 5, 1841; it was at the time the largest vessel ever built there.

The schooner Nile was launched from the shipyard in Kennebunkport May 7, 1841. She was rigged on the stocks and went off her ways in fine style, with streamers and flags flying. She was owned by D. and S. Ward and intended for a packet between Kennebunk and Boston.

During the years 1841 and 1842 several brigs entered at this port laden with sugar and molasses. Entries of foreign goods at the Kennebunk custom house for several years previously had been few in number. In the years above named the crops were somewhat larger than the average on the island of Porto Rico, and owing to the dull state of trade at the commercial centers the prices of sugar and molasses ruled very low and the demand for them was quite limited. Capt. E. Perkins & Sons decided to order the cargoes of these staples belonging to them, or in their charge as consignees, to be sent direct to Kennebunkport, there to be stored until quicker sales, and at more remunerative prices, could be made.

Four cargoes of sugar and molasses were imported from May to September, 1841, on which duties to the amount of nine thousand and thirteen dollars were collected, and four cargoes in 1842 paying duties to the amount of six thousand one hundred dollars. A cargo of salt—nearly twelve thousand bushels—from Cadiz was also im-

ported in 1842. In 1843 the imports were about four thousand two hundred bushels of salt from Turks Island and ten thousand five hundred bushels from Cadiz. In February, 1845, brig *Motto*, of Portland, Williams master, from Cardenas for Portland, ran on to the Fishing Rocks and bilged. Her cargo, molasses, nearly all of which was damaged, was brought into this port. After deducting the amount decreed by appraisers for damages, the duties thereon amounted to five hundred and forty-five dollars. The brig, we think, was gotten off from the ledge, towed into Portland and there repaired. Since 1845 the importations at our custom house have been unimportant.

During the years above named the exports from this port to Ponce, P. R., British West India Islands and Cuba amounted to about thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars, among which were two million three hundred thousand feet of boards, other lumber and manufactures of wood (hoops, shooks, shingles, spars, etc.), nine hundred and sixty-seven quintals of dried fish and (1842-43) sixteen hundred and eighty barrels of potatoes, invoiced value eleven hundred and fifty-one dollars. The exports to foreign ports since 1845 have been inconsiderable.

Bark *Isidore* (new vessel), Leander Foss master, sailed from Kennebunkport for New Orleans, in ballast, about noon, November 30, 1842. During a severe gale and snowstorm, the same night, she was driven ashore on Bald Head, Cape Neddock, and all on board perished,—the captain, first and second mates, a passenger and eleven seamen. The bark was a complete wreck.

#### THE SEA SERPENT.

No little excitement was occasioned in the coast towns of Massachusetts and Maine, in the summer of 1817, by the appearance of "an unusual fish or serpent" in the harbor of Gloucester, near the "half-way rock" (half way between Boston and Cape Ann). It was also once seen, as was alleged, in Wells Bay. Great efforts were made by the Gloucester people to take him; muskets, harpoons and various other instruments were employed for this purpose, but all their labor in this direction was ineffectual. It was said that the "head of it, eight feet out of water, was as large as that of a horse and very long." There were various estimates as to its length, none less than eighty and some as high as one hundred and fifty feet. Many fishermen saw him, at different times and places, and were much alarmed. This was the first "sea serpent" seen in our

waters, except in 1793, when it was stated that a marine animal, answering its description, was discovered near Mount Desert, in Maine; but the report was not generally credited, although it was understood that such "monsters of the deep" had been seen, occasionally, on the coast of Norway. He was espied, in August, 1818, near Rye Beach, "gliding with great swiftness, often raising his head above the surface of the water and apparently about one hundred feet in length." The serpent was again perceived early in June, 1819, near Cohasset Rocks, and frequently, during the summer of 1820, in the vicinity of the Isles of Shoals.

The coast in the immediate vicinity of Kennebunk was visited by this marine monster in the summer of 1830. He was discerned by three men, who were fishing a few miles distant from the mouth of Kennebunk River, on the afternoon of the twenty-first of July. Two of the men were so much alarmed at his nearness to their boat that they went below. The third, a Mr. Gooch, "a man whose statements can be relied on," remained on deck "and returned the glances of his serpentship." Mr. Gooch gave the following account of the interview. "The serpent was first seen a short distance from them, but very soon he changed his course and came within six feet of the boat, when he raised his head about four feet from the water and looked directly into the boat, in which position he remained several minutes." Mr. Gooch viewed him carefully and gave it as his opinion that he was "full sixty feet in length and six feet in circumference; his head about the size of a ten-gallon keg, having long flaps or ears, and his eyes about the size of those of an ox, bright and projecting from his head; his skin was dark gray and covered with scales; he had no bunches on his back. When he disappeared he made no effort to swim, but sank down apparently without exertion." Mr. Gooch said that he could have struck him very easily with his oar, but that "he was willing to let the serpent alone if the serpent would not molest him." He had been spied off this and off Wells Harbor several times during the third week in June by different persons, men of respectability and veracity.

The fishing schooner *Dove*, Captain Peabody, on her passage from Boston to this port, November 17, 1835, "fell in with his marine majesty, the sea serpent, cruising near the half-way rock." Captain Peabody stated that he ran within four rods of him and for a short time had a fair view of him. "Several protuberances appeared along his head, which was elevated three or four feet above the water; but as the schooner neared him he settled under



the water, his wake indicating him to be sixty or seventy feet in length."

The crews of a dozen or more fishing boats who were fishing in Wells Bay on Monday afternoon, July 22, 1839, united in the declaration that the serpent was distinctly seen by them. They represented him as fully one hundred feet in length, resembling "a long row of hogsheads or barrels, with perhaps a foot or eighteen inches space between each of them." An editorial in the *Gazette* says in regard to these statements: "Such are the reports. We can only say that we are acquainted with several of the persons by whom they are made and we know them to be credible men, not over credulous nor lacking in courage. Of one thing all our good people—whether believers or disbelievers in the existence of *the* sea serpent, or that these visitors, at different times, are different members of a race of sea serpents—may be assured, that a big fish, which was a *unique* fish, appeared in our waters at the time aforesaid and exhibited himself to divers persons and in divers places."

The serpent was caught sight of twice during the second week in August, 1839, off our harbor, it was thought not more than two miles distant from the piers. The fishermen complained that the fish had all deserted their old feeding grounds and were only to be found close in shore.

A gentleman belonging to Cape Neddock left that harbor on the thirteenth of August, in a small boat, and when about a mile and a half from the harbor saw, about thirty feet distant, what he supposed to be a school of sharks, but he was soon convinced that it must be the huge marine monster that was visiting this coast. He afterward saw him distinctly. His length was not less than one hundred feet; he had bunches or humps on his back about the size of a common barrel, with flippers at each end of them; was covered with scales the size of a common plate; had a small head, resembling somewhat that of a snake; passed through the water with great velocity and his motions resembled those of a snake. He was in the vicinity of his boat and of other boats near him for several minutes, dodging about, probably in search of food, and finally started off in an easterly direction. Several of the boats' crews were much alarmed and made for the shore. The gentleman thought he could not have been deceived; he had often seen shoals of various kinds of fish, such as whales, sharks, etc., but this resembled no marine animal, or cluster of marine animals, which he had ever before met with, or which he had heard or seen described.

This marine wonder has not visited Wells Bay, so far as is known, since 1839. He has not, however, forsaken the coast of New England; accounts of his appearance at different points, especially those in Massachusetts, where he was first discovered during the summer of 1817, are frequently published. He still "roams at large in the wide waters," eluding all efforts for his capture, and discordant descriptions of him are still given by "eyewitnesses." Whether it is the same animal that is descried at different times and places, from time to time, or whether they are members of a serpentine family, gigantic in size and peculiar in its habits, which stray to our coast from a Norwegian home, are questions that remain unsettled.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE PIERS—THE GRANITE SPECULATION.

“Kennebunk [Harbor] being a barred harbor and the channel being liable to shift every storm, by the shifting of the sand, and there also being a bad rock, called the Perch Rock, in the middle [and near the mouth] of the river, a company was formed in 1793, and incorporated in 1798, ‘to build a pier extending over Perch Rock, for the double purpose of covering the rock and keeping the channel in one place.’ This was known as the ‘Perch Rock Wharf,’ and although it failed fully to meet the expectations of its projectors it was, nevertheless, an exceedingly useful structure. It not only rendered passage up and down the river safer, but it was a very great convenience to inward and outward bound vessels that were compelled to wait for a favorable state of the tide or wind. After the pier had been built, it was dangerous to sail out of the river fully loaded, and the larger class of vessels usually finished their loading outside the bar. . . . The proprietors were allowed to assess a small tax on every ton of navigation passing the pier. The act of incorporation was several times renewed, but the tax on tonnage being reduced in 1820 the proprietors refused to accept the charter.”<sup>1</sup>

The perceptibly favorable influence of the Perch Rock Wharf on the action of the sand, considering its distance from the mouth of the river and the shortness of the structure, limited as it was, afforded to intelligent observers satisfactory proof that a properly constructed pier at the mouth of the river would be an efficient agent in fixing and deepening the channel. The great necessity for such a work was strongly felt by merchants and all others interested in or dependent on the commercial prosperity of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. The ship owners in these towns had been for many years then past and were at that time paying no inconsiderable sums into the national treasury for duties, and they regarded it as within the bounds of strict propriety that they should ask Congress for an appropriation for an object that would so well bear investigation. A petition was accordingly prepared and committed to the

<sup>1</sup>Bradbury's History of Kennebunkport.



care of John Holmes, member of Congress from this district, by whom it was duly presented. Through the well-directed exertions of Mr. Holmes, in connection with valuable aid furnished by Mark Langdon Hill, also a member of the House from Maine, an appropriation by Congress of five thousand dollars was obtained (1820). The pier was built under the direction of a committee selected from citizens of the two towns, viz.: John Low, chairman, Joseph Perkins, Hugh McCulloch, Simon Nowell and Horace Porter. Edward White was master workman. It was built of pine timber (cribs of timber with stone) and was located on the west side of the river, on the site of the stone pier now standing. The anticipations of the public were more than realized at an early day by the favorable operation of this structure, and two or three years later an appropriation of four thousand dollars was asked for and obtained, to be expended in the building of another wooden pier, on the east side of the river, opposite to that already erected, without which it was evident that the sand obstruction could not be removed the whole width of the channel. This was also expended under the direction of a committee, and the pier after its completion proved to be very beneficial. The good feeling induced by the favorable operation of these improvements was, however, of short duration. In the course of three or four years it was found that more than one-half of the frame work of the western pier, seaward, was showing signs of weakness and decay. The thoroughly honeycombed timbers, caused by the ravages of an insect called sand flea, evidenced too plainly that the work of destruction was far advanced, and, moreover, there were no known means by which its progress could be stayed. It was found, too, that the insect was vigorously at work on the eastern pier. This event was not only unlooked for, but was the source of sad forebodings, for if the woodwork was destroyed the ballast must necessarily fall into the channel and render the entrance to the harbor more difficult than ever before. In 1828 the eastern pier was seriously injured by a storm. An examination by a government engineer led to a recommendation by him that the sum of five thousand dollars should be appropriated by Congress for replacing the injured portion of the western pier with a work of stone and for strengthening and extending inward the pier on the east side of the river. This sum was appropriated for the purposes above named during the session of 1829. The money was expended under the direction of Barnabas Palmer, collector of the district, as agent of the Topographical Engineer Department, during the years 1829 and

1830. Three hundred and five feet of the western pier was removed and replaced by a pier head thirteen and a half feet broad by fourteen feet long and two hundred and ninety-one feet of pier proper of stone, leaving two hundred and thirty-one feet of the wooden pier standing. The eastern pier was also repaired and strengthened. In 1831 Congress made an appropriation of one thousand one hundred and seventy-five dollars "for completing repairs to piers at the entrance of Kennebunk River," and in 1832 a further appropriation of seventeen hundred dollars was made for the same object. This was expended in dumping rough blocks of stone along the inner side of the stone pier (western), to prevent its being undermined, and in extending the eastern pier (wooden) a little distance beyond the Perch Rock, the whole measuring two hundred and eighty-two feet.

An appropriation of ten thousand three hundred dollars was made by Congress in 1834 "for piers at the entrance of Kennebunk River." This was utilized for granite and labor required for the building of the pier head on the east side of the river, said pier being thirty feet broad by twenty-eight feet long and built in three feet of water. Further appropriations, for continuing the stone pier and repairing and building wooden piers on the east side of the river, were made by Congress: In 1836, seven thousand five hundred dollars were expended; in 1837, three thousand dollars; and in 1838, eight thousand dollars. These appropriations were disbursed, under the agency of Joshua Herrick, deputy collector, in completing the pier head and building about ninety-nine feet of the pier proper of stone, and about one thousand feet of wooden piers were built and repaired, if we include "Harding's Wharf," two hundred and seventy-three feet, a distinct structure a short distance inland from the connected line of piers. This wharf was originally built by private individuals. In or about 1832 it was purchased by the government and at this time (1838) much needed repairs were made upon it.

During a severe storm which occurred on the third and fourth of October, 1841, more than one hundred feet of the wooden piers on the east side of the river, adjoining the stone pier, were broken up and rendered worthless. This section had been weakened by the operations of the sand flea and had not been built with due regard to its exposed position, where great strength was required. Indeed, it may be truly said that the whole line of wooden piers then standing had been cheaply constructed, it being considered,

probably, that they were so far up river that no special regard to strength of construction was necessary. There were at the time no funds that could be applied to the rebuilding of the work that had been so thoroughly destroyed, and for eighteen months the sea swept over the ruins unobstructed, washing, with almost every incoming tide, sand from the beach at the back of the stone pier and the debris from that which had been carried away into the channel, the depth of water in which, it was estimated by competent judges, had been lessened fully three feet in these eighteen months.

In September, 1842, Mr. Remich, collector of the port, was appointed agent of the Topographical Department and authorized to continue the stone pier so far as unexpended balances of certain former appropriations for other works would warrant. There were then about nine hundred tons of stone that could be used in the construction of the pier, the property of the United States, lying on different wharves in Kennebunkport, and about the same quantity, also the property of the national government, lying at different quarries about three miles from the piers. During the remaining months of 1842 the larger part of the outlying stone was removed to the site of the contemplated work and the stone pier was extended inward and very nearly completed one hundred and thirteen feet. The large dimension stone required was furnished and all the stone was laid by a firm belonging to Rockport, Mass.

During the winter of 1842-43 a chart of the entrance to the harbor, showing the situation of all the public works that had been erected there and the depth of water at various points, commencing at the mouth of the creek near Harding's Wharf and extending to three fathoms soundings outside the bar, was made by order of the Topographical Engineer Department. Jonathan Fiske was employed by Mr. Remich to make the required measurements and soundings and to prepare the chart, all of which was accurately and satisfactorily performed.

A severe storm occurred on the seventeenth of March, 1843, during which about one hundred feet of the wooden pier, beyond the Perch Rock shoreward, were carried away. The timbers were mostly saved, and with them a rough though substantial pier was built, extending from the main pier (near the Perch Rock) across the sands to a sand bank opposite. This structure was one hundred and twelve feet in length, eleven feet in width and between four and five feet high. It was built for the protection of a long pier, beyond



Perch Rock, known as "White's Pier," which was fast decaying from the force of the sea, as well as with the expectation that it would prevent the sand from washing into the channel at this point; these purposes it answered admirably. It was removed a few years later by a United States engineer in charge of the works and replaced with a more substantial structure of stone.

In 1843 the stone pier was continued and completed one hundred and five feet, making, with the extension built the preceding year, the whole length of the extension in these years two hundred and eighteen feet, which, added to the one hundred and twenty-seven feet built prior to 1842, made the entire length of the stone work three hundred and forty-five feet. The extension, which was of the same dimensions as the work previously built, averaged seventeen feet high, seventeen wide at the base and three feet (a cap stone) at the summit. Several hundred feet of the wooden piers were rebuilt and the whole of them (excepting Harding's Wharf) were thoroughly repaired the same season. The amount expended by Mr. Remich during 1842-43 was about five thousand five hundred dollars.

When the extension was commenced, in October, 1842, it was stated, on good authority, that a common yawl boat could not easily pass over the bar at low water, and that, ordinarily, at high water it was found necessary to lighten inward-bound vessels (by unloading a part of the cargo outside and taking it up river in boats or barges) drawing ten feet before they could enter the harbor, and with outward-bound vessels of more than ten feet draught, when laden, it was necessary to take them over the bar when partially laden and complete the work outside. Less than a year after the extension and repairs above described had been completed a coaster of about fifty tons, with a full cargo, passed over the bar without hindrance within an hour after the tide had commenced to flow, and vessels drawing twelve feet and ten inches found no difficulty in passing over it at high water.

In the winter of 1850-51, a petition, numerously signed by citizens of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, was presented to Congress, praying for an appropriation for the completion of the piers, but it reached Washington at so late a day that it could not be acted on during the session which was then drawing to a close. Another petition, for the same object, was presented at the session of 1851-52 and an appropriation of seven thousand five hundred dollars was obtained. It may be well here to state the fact that our people are

indebted to Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, then United States Senator from this State, for this opportune and much needed action of Congress. Without his unwearied efforts in its behalf, there is abundant evidence to show, this appropriation would have been excluded from the river and harbor bill. During the summer and autumn of 1853 this appropriation was very judiciously expended under the superintendence of Brevet Major General Z. B. Tower, of the corps of United States Topographical Engineers.

#### THE GRANITE SPECULATION.

It was ascertained in July, 1835, that a large number of ledges, situated within two or three miles of the village of Kennebunkport and within the bounds of that town, which up to this time had been regarded as of little or no value, were excellent granite quarries; the rock was straight grained, would split remarkably well, and of excellent color, dark and precisely what is considered most desirable for building purposes. One of these ledges had been purchased for seventy-five dollars, with the expectation of obtaining material that could be used profitably on the pier about to be built at the mouth of the river on its eastern side, but nearly five thousand tons had been quarried before its excellent qualities were discovered and tested. Then came the tide of speculation. Gentlemen from towns and cities east and west of Kennebunkport were soon on the ground. Ledges and farms containing ledges were sold or bonded at what then appeared to be extravagant prices. Companies were formed, incorporated, organized, supplied with the necessary tools and machinery, and as soon as practicable were in active and successful operation.

This granite was shipped to Portland, Boston, New York and other cities for a few years subsequently, and the walls of many elegant buildings were constructed of this material, notably in New York City, where, in 1836, it was used for the walls of several large stores, of a building in Waverly Place and the front of a large hotel on Pearl Street. Long and beautiful shafts for monuments in cemeteries have been obtained from these ledges, and the granite was extensively used for bases of monuments, underpinning and other purposes.

There were four companies incorporated for the working of a part of these ledges, viz.: "The Maine Quarrying Association," with a capital of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, divided into two thousand shares, John Neal, Daniel Winslow and Mason

Greenwood, all of Portland, managers; the "Kennebunkport Granite and Railroad Company," with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars, Daniel W. Lord, of Kennebunkport, president; the "New York City and Kennebunkport Granite Company" and the "Kennebunk Granite Company." The two last named were incorporated with smaller capitals than the two first named, but a large quantity of stone was quarried by each of them. Several unincorporated companies were also engaged in quarrying this stone, and for awhile profitably. Kennebunk residents were largely interested in nearly all of these corporations.

Although ledges of excellent granite abound in the town of Kennebunkport, those engaged in working them soon found that their distance from wharves whence they could be shipped (from one and a half to two miles) subjected the companies to no inconsiderable cost for handling and cartage, which was not incurred by companies engaged in the same business in other places where ledges were more favorably situated as to facilities for quarrying and shipping. The "Kennebunkport Granite and Railway Company" proposed to overcome this serious disadvantage by building a railway from some eligible point at the ledges to some convenient point on the wharves, by which the stone could be more easily and cheaply handled and transported, but a careful calculation of the relative merits and cost of the then present and the proposed methods convinced those interested in the project that, as an economical measure, the railway would unavoidably prove a failure. Finding that the stone could not be profitably quarried for exportation, work was relinquished by the several companies as early as 1840. Since that date these valuable ledges have been worked by private parties only, and chiefly to supply the demands for underpinning, cemetery work, etc., by the citizens of Kennebunkport and neighboring towns.



## CHAPTER IX.

### THE MAILS—P. S. & P. RAILROAD.

A new mail route was established in the county of York in 1818 which was designed to open a direct and easy communication between the towns on the seaboard, in the county, and those of the interior. It went into operation on the first day of July in that year. It afforded mail facilities to the inhabitants of the county that were much needed. No town derived more benefit from its establishment than Kennebunk and it was especially valuable to the proprietor of the *Visiter*. The measure was, however, severely criticised by Portland papers, because they fancied that it would operate injuriously to their interests, and they assailed the Hon. John Holmes, of Alfred, who at the time represented this district in Congress and who was the originator of the new route, with strongly vituperative language. Mr. Holmes, in a letter to Mr. James K. Remich, editor of the *Visiter*, very satisfactorily vindicated his action in this matter, and furnished indisputable proofs that, without the slightest injury to Portland people, the new route was a very great as well as a much desired accommodation to his constituents. We think that the subjoined extracts from Mr. Holmes's letter will, even at this day, be read with interest.

Before the new arrangement "the mail commenced at Portland on Wednesday of each week, passed through Gorham, Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Cornish, Parsonsfield, Newfield, Shapleigh and Lebanon to Doughty's Falls, a post office not on the main mail route, but a branch of it; it then returned by another and different route through Sanford, Alfred, Waterborough, Hollis, Buxton and Gorham to Portland, where it arrived on Tuesday." "Excepting a mail once a week, lately established between Alfred and Kennebunk," these were all the mail facilities that had been enjoyed by the interior of the county up to the then present time. By way of illustration, "a letter is sent from Boston to Sanford; it goes to Portland, from thence it is taken on Wednesday, travels through the back part of the county and arrives at Doughty's Falls; thence it reaches Sanford on Saturday; the mail goes on, and not until the next Saturday can

an answer be put into the post office; it must then go to Portland, where it will arrive on Tuesday and be mailed for Boston."

By the new route a central spot on the main road was selected "from whence to receive the eastern and western mails, to carry them to every post office and back to the same place. Kennebunk has been preferred; having regard to the western as well as eastern mails, it is nearest. The clerk's office and registry of probate are there, and the registry of deeds and treasurer's office are at Alfred, through which each mail passes. The mail as now established will commence at Kennebunk Wednesday evening, taking the Boston newspapers of the same day and the Portland papers of Tuesday, and proceed to Parsonsfield, where it will arrive on Friday morning, returning to Kennebunk on Saturday. The people at Alfred will get the *Argus* [and *Gazette*] the day after, and the Kennebunk *Visiter*, Boston *Centinel* and *Patriot* the evening of the day they are published. . . . An answer to any letter received on this route will be sent to Kennebunk and thence, received in Portland the same day and in Boston on Sunday." (There were but two papers, each a weekly, published in Portland at the date of Mr. Holmes's letter, July, 1818, the *Argus*, *Republican*, and the *Gazette*, *Federal*.) "The next mail will leave Kennebunk Saturday evening, taking the papers and letters from Boston of the same day, and pass through Alfred, Sanford, Lebanon, Shapleigh and Newfield to Parsonsfield, where it will arrive Sunday evening. It will return answers to Kennebunk on Tuesday morning, from whence they will arrive in Portland and Boston on the same day."

The mails on these routes were carried on horseback. Mr. Tucker (brother to Stephen Tucker, of Kennebunk), a veteran in the service, was mail carrier for a number of years, until the first of January, 1825, when he resigned. He was much esteemed for his promptness and fidelity.

The Hon. John Holmes was re-elected representative to Congress from York District in November, 1818. Very few votes were thrown. Whether Mr. Holmes's action in obtaining the new mail route was the cause of this unanimity we are unable to say; there is reason to suppose that such was the fact.

A post office was established in Lyman in March, 1819, and Thomas Sands was appointed postmaster. Previously, a large part of the mail matter for Lyman people was received through the Kennebunk post office; a few, where it was more convenient for

them, obtained their mail matter through the Saco or Alfred office.

The town of Wells petitioned the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, April term, 1818, that so much of the new road from the toll bridge to Cole's Corner (which was established by said Court in 1817) as lies between said Corner and the place where the same intersects the road leading to the sea (near the dwelling-house of Samuel Hart) may be discontinued. The petitioners allege that the advantages anticipated to result to the public from the location of this road have in a great measure ceased; "that the line of stages which, for a short period, passed from Cole's Corner to and from Saco [and Portland] by the way of Lower Kennebunk, so-called, have ceased to travel in that direction, and all other traveling on said road is almost wholly at an end; that the ground over which the western end of the road was ordered to be made is mostly wet and miry, salt marsh and heath; that the damages to land owners and cost of construction will be very considerable; that a road now exists and for a great number of years has existed from the aforesaid Cole's Corner to where the new road aforesaid, from said Lower Kennebunk, intersects the road leading to the sea, near the dwelling-house of Samuel Hart, which is safe, easy and convenient for travelling, and not unusually crooked or circuitous, and that the saving in distance by opening the said new road, as located on this part of it, will not warrant the expenses attendant thereon." The Court did not grant the prayer of the petitioners.

In 1824 and for several years previous to that date the great mail from Boston to Portland was carried alternately through Salem, Newburyport, Portsmouth, York, Kennebunk, Saco, etc., and on the upper route through Andover, Haverhill, Exeter, Dover, Doughty's Falls to Kennebunk, where it met the lower. An attempt was made by Mr. Holmes, in 1824, to change this arrangement so "that this upper route, instead of falling into the lower at Kennebunk, should continue from Dover to Doughty's Falls, as heretofore, and instead of going to the lower route at Kennebunk to pass through Sanford, Alfred, Buxton and Gorham to Portland," through which towns a line of stages had then been recently established, going and returning every other week day. The citizens of Kennebunk and Saco were indignant at this movement and indulged in some pretty strong denunciatory comments through the columns of the *Gazette*. They appealed to headquarters and succeeded in defeating this scheme, the postmaster general permitting a mail to be carried by the interior route as above described.



The "Portland Stage Company" commenced running a stage-coach from Kennebunkport to Saco, there to meet the Portland stage, in May, 1826, "leaving Kennebunkport Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at six A. M., arriving at Saco at half-past seven and at Portland at ten A. M.; returning, leaves Portland at four P. M. and arrives at Kennebunkport by eight P. M. Leaving Kennebunkport Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays by half-past eleven A. M. for Kennebunk and returning same day." Fare from Kennebunkport to Saco, fifty cents; from Saco to Portland, seventy-five cents. How long this arrangement continued we are unable to say, but probably not longer than a year.

The great mail from Boston to Portland, which had for a year or more been carried by the way of Dover four times a week, was ordered by the postmaster general, in January, 1827, to be carried on the lower road every day. This was highly advantageous to Kennebunk, as the mails reached here nearly two hours earlier by the lower route than by the upper. The accommodation stage from Dover to Portland brought the mails from the towns on the upper road three times a week.

The mail and accommodation stages arrived and departed from this village, January, 1831, as follows: "Eastern mail every morning at seven, western mail every morning at eight. The Dover stage, bringing the upper road mail, arrives every secular day at noon and returns at one P. M. on same day. Country mail Wednesdays and Saturdays at seven A. M. and returns same day at about nine A. M. Kennebunkport mail leaves every secular day at about nine A. M. and returns same evening. The Eastern accommodation stage arrives from Portland (bringing a mail for Dover and other towns) every secular day at noon, dines at Kennebunk and leaves for Portsmouth at one P. M. The Western accommodation stage arrives every secular day at noon, dines at Kennebunk and leaves for Portland with Dover mail at one."

There were no material changes in the transportation of the mails on the stage routes through this town from the date last named until the Portland, Saco & Portsmouth Railroad performed that service in 1843.

#### P. S. & P. RAILROAD.

The survey of a route for a railroad from Portsmouth, through York, Wells, Kennebunk, Saco, etc., was completed June 25, 1836. The Lowell Railroad had then been in operation more than a year;

the Boston & Andover Road was also in operation, and its extension to Haverhill was regarded as quite certain. A railway from Boston to Salem was completed a year or two later, and no doubt existed that it would be extended from Salem to Portsmouth. The Eastern Railroad, from Newburyport to Portsmouth, was opened for travel and freight about the middle of November, 1840.

The first train of cars passed over the railroad from Portland to Saco, or to the then present stopping place, which was a mile or more out of the village, in the forenoon of February 7, 1842. The principal city officials, the president and one of the directors of the road, gentlemen of the press and other citizens occupied the car. A great concourse of the people of Portland witnessed the starting of the train. In the afternoon a number of the citizens of Saco went into Portland over the road, and on Tuesday, the eighth, the cars commenced running regularly.

## CHAPTER X.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF KENNEBUNK IN 1820—ADVERTISING COLUMNS FROM 1820 TO 1842.

The Business Directory of this town at the date of its incorporation was made up as follows:—

BAKER. Heard Milliken, successor to Benjamin Smith in the building erected by Mr. Cole as a part of his tannery works.

BLACKSMITHS. *Village*—Elisha Chadbourne, Dimon Gillpatrick, Jacob Waterhouse, Stephen Furbish. *Landing*—John Emery, John Jones. *Alewive*—David Littlefield.

BUTCHER. Rufus Furbish “at Capt. Ralph Curtis’s Slaughter House.”

CABINET MAKERS AND HOUSE CARPENTERS. *Village*—Daniel Hodsdon, Chadbourne & Junkins. (Attached to each of these establishments was a wareroom well supplied with furniture of all kinds.) *Landing*—Samuel Hubbard (also house painter). *Port District*—Edward White.

CARDING AND CLOTH DRESSING. Paul Hussey.

CLERGYMEN. Nathaniel H. Fletcher, pastor of Unitarian Church; Joshua Roberts, pastor of Calvinist Baptist Church in Alewive.

CLOTHIER. Nathaniel Jefferds.

COOPERS. John Mitchell, Sanford Road; Lemuel Hatch, at the “Heath.”

GRIST-MILLS. One near the Upper Dam and one near the Lower Dam in the village, Mitchell’s at Cat Mousam.

INNS AND INNKEEPERS. Jefferds’s House, Proprietor, George Jefferds (son of William, by whom it was established); Barnard House, kept by Rachel Barnard (widow of Joseph Barnard); Robert Patten’s Inn (the dwelling-house of Henry Jordan).

LAW OFFICES. Joseph Thomas, Chief Justice of the Court of Sessions for York County; Joseph Dane, George W. Wallingford, William B. Sewall, Judge of Probate.



PHYSICIANS. *Village*—Samuel Emerson, Jacob Fisher. *Landing*—James Dorrance, (removed to Portland in the fall of 1820).

PRINTING OFFICE. James K. Remich, proprietor. *The Weekly Visiter*. (The title was changed to *Kennebunk Gazette*, June, 1821.)

PRIVATE SCHOOL. John Skeeel (Washington Hall).

SADDLERS. Nathaniel Shute, Palmer Walker.

SAW-MILLS. Storer's, in the village, mill on Kennebunk River, mill at Cat Mousam, mill on Alewife Brook and Day's mill.

SHIPYARDS AND SHIPBUILDERS (all at the Landing on Kennebunk River). Nathaniel Gillpatrick, David Little, John Bourne, Jacob Perkins, George and Ivory Lord, Isaac Kilham, Hugh McCulloch.

SHOEMAKERS. *Village*—Moses Littlefield, Samuel Littlefield, Jr., Benjamin Littlefield, Abel M. Bryant, Daniel Shackley, Daniel Shackley, Jr.; morocco shoes, Moses Varney. *Landing*—Benjamin Elwell (successor of his father, John Elwell, occupying the shop and house built by him near Durrell's Bridge many years previously).

TAILORS. *Village*—Stephen Tucker, Samuel Mendum, Simon Ross. *Landing*—Dayton.

TANNERS AND CURRIERS. Edmund Pierson, successor to Joseph Curtis, Scotchman's Brook (just back of the Sargent-Ross Block; Jotham Perkins, Scotchman's Brook on the new road (Fletcher Street); Daniel Shackley, River Road; Tobias Walker, Alewife.

TRADERS. *Village*—John U. Parsons & Co., William Lord, Smith & Porter, James Titcomb, John Osborn & Co., Samuel L. Osborn, Joseph G. Moody, Barnabas Palmer, Michael Wise, William Gillpatrick, Ebenezer Curtis, Timothy Frost, \*Samuel Ross, \*Adoniram Hardison, \*Abial Kelley, Jr. Apothecaries, Jacob Fisher, John Lillie. *Landing*—George and Ivory Lord, Adam McCulloch, Joel Larrabee, Jr., Isaac Kilham, David Little, Samuel Lord and George W. Bourne. *Port (Lower Village)*—Daniel Walker. *Alewife*—\*John Stone, Jacob Littlefield.

Those with this mark \* sold groceries only. All the others named kept large stocks, for country stores, of piece goods, West India goods and groceries; several kept good supplies of hard and hollow ware, crockery, etc.

The advertising columns from 1820 to 1842 again furnish interesting information respecting men and occurrences in our town during nearly a quarter of a century after its incorporation.

## 1820.

January 29. Titcomb & Skeele dissolve copartnership. James Titcomb continues the business.

February. Samuel Hubbard, cabinet maker and painter, commences business in the shop owned by David Little.

Eliphalet Dame advertises marble work.

March 13. John Skeele opens a private school at Washington Hall. It was well patronized.

April 1. Jefferds & Hussey give notice that their copartnership will expire by limitation on that date.

April 14. William Lord takes the store recently vacated by J. M. Hayes (removed to Kennebunkport) and offers for sale a large stock of goods.

John C. Hatch advertises his farm for sale. The farm is about two miles from the meeting-house, with good house and barn; about eighty acres of land. (This farm was on the road leading from the Sanford road to Cat Mousam. A slight excavation, showing the location of the house cellar, and a few apple trees wearing the marks of age and neglect are all that now remain.)

## 1821.

March. Samuel L. Osborn & Co. (Samuel L. and James Osborn) dissolve partnership; the senior partner takes the store—east—under Washington Hall and continues business there. John and James Osborn, Jr., form a copartnership in May and transact business in the store lately occupied by the first-named firm.

May. Dr. B. F. Greene, physician and surgeon, moved to this town and occupied the house then recently vacated by Doctor Dorrance at the Landing. He remained here a few months only.

Dr. John Wise (son of Daniel) moved to this town in May from Sherburne, Mass., where he had been located several years as a physician. He was a surgeon in the United States Navy a short time during the war of 1812-15.

September. Abial Kelley and Alexander Warren, hatters, dissolve copartnership. The business was not continued by either partner.

James Titcomb and Owen Burnham formed copartnership, country store (Free Library Association Building).

October. Israel W. Bourne opens a private school in the village, which was continued about three years. Mr. Bourne removed to Dover, N. H., in October, 1824, and later to Boston, where he was a bookkeeper in a wholesale commercial house.

October 15. The sharpshooters of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells are invited "to conglomerate at Jefferds's Hotel to make arrangements for a shooting-party."

1822.

March. Moses Varney relinquished business in this town and moved to Dover, N. H.

April 15. John U. Parsons & Co. (Parsons, Thomas Drew and Moses Savary) dissolved copartnership. Their stock in trade was sold at auction. They were succeeded by Thomas Drew & Co.

August 4. Benjamin Mayo advertises that he has purchased the "Nason's Mills establishment," on eastern side of Kennebunk River and a few rods above the bridge on the main road to Portland; has put it in first-rate order for carding wool and for coloring, fulling and dressing cloth. He has also a grist-mill in operation. John G. Mayo owned and operated the carding machines.

Paul H. Hussey gives notice that he continues carding, cloth dressing and cloth manufacturing at his old stand, near Mousam Bridge.

John Skeeel offers for sale the store in western end of the Washington Hall building, "unquestionably the best stand in Kennebunk."

November 1. Jacob Witham, who lived midway between the Village and the Landing (nearly opposite John Drown's, his house long since demolished), a harmless man, publishes an "Important Notice" that he "has discovered a simple yet safe remedy for many disorders," and he informs the public that he will attend to giving relief to the afflicted by the exercise of his own natural power, gratis, at his house or at the shipyard where he is generally employed, it being a power given him as he thinks by "divine inspiration." Jacob gained great celebrity for curing aching teeth by "charming" them. He could not charge anything for his cures, inasmuch as by so doing his power would be withheld from him, but he would accept, and always expected, a present from those who received benefit from the exercise of his wonderful gift.



1823.

April 4. Hodsdon & Low (Daniel Hodsdon and Samuel B. Low), cabinet makers, dissolve copartnership.

John H. Hilton, manufacturer of cabinet furniture and repairer and painter of carriages, takes a shop at Kennebunk Landing, near the residence of David Little, where he carries on the several branches of his business; also, keeps wagons constantly for sale.

May. George H. Dearborn manufactures and sells "at wholesale and retail Ladies' and Gentlemen's morocco shoes and boots" at his shop, "nearly opposite Rev. Mr. Fletcher's Meeting House and near the Printing office." This was a small building which stood on the lot now improved as a passage way west of the old printing office building. Dearborn left town within a year and was succeeded by Putnam Hartshorn. The building remained there only two or three years.

John G. Mayo in May removes his carding machines from Nason's Mills "down the river about a quarter of a mile to what was formerly called Merrill's Mills."

July 11. Samuel Smith gives notice that he has erected a new carding machine at Nason's Mills.

"At the Baptist Meeting House in York. On Lord's Day next this House will be free for the Sons and Daughters of Zion to wait on the Lord and honor him that hath made them free. Also, the Family of Egypt may have another opportunity to come up to Jerusalem to keep the feast in Tabernacles, or, if they refuse, they must not expect to have any rain of the Spirit on them. *Hypocrites, Mon-grrels* and *Lepers* are desired to withdraw.

Samuel Junkins, Servant of the Church of Christ in York. York, August 1, 1823."

Junkins, aged fifty-five, was married to Mrs. Olive Williams, aged thirty-five, in July, 1824, at York. They had "spiritually united" about six months previously, but this defiance of the laws, both moral and statutory, was so bitterly denounced that the parties thought it prudent to be legally married, or, as they expressed it, "united after the manner of the beast." Junkins was a crank and was a shining light among the followers of Cochrane. He attempted, as it would seem, to build up and become the head of a new sect, but found little encouragement. At the October term of the Court of Common Pleas, 1824, Junkins was fined twenty dollars

and costs, in all forty dollars, and his wife five dollars and costs, in all about thirty-nine dollars, for willfully disturbing a meeting held at the Baptist meeting-house in York on the Lord's Day.

October. Greenough, Bodwell & Co. (Edward Greenough, John W. Bodwell and Moses Savary) succeed to the late firm of Thomas Drew & Co., which was dissolved the eleventh of the month, and take the store and stock of the old firm.

December 31. Titcomb & Burnham dissolve copartnership. Mr. Titcomb removes to the Landing and Mr. Burnham continues business at the old stand.

1824.

January 14. William and Oliver Bartlett, bakers, dissolve copartnership.

November. Greenough, Bodwell & Co. dissolve partnership, J. W. Bodwell retiring.

Wise & Bodwell (Daniel Wise and John W. Bodwell) form copartnership and commence business, general merchandise, in the Phoenix Building. (The old brick store, after being repaired and improved by Mr. Isaac Lord, was known for several years as the "Phoenix Building.")

Erastus Hayes and Daniel Walker formed a copartnership and took the store at the head of Curtis's Wharf, Lower Kennebunk; dealers in general merchandise.

1825.

January 1. Lord & Kingsbury (William Lord and Henry Kingsbury) form a partnership.

George W. Bourne, at Kennebunk Landing, advertises winter stock of goods; buys ship timber and plank.

The cellar under part of Kelley & Warren's building continues open for accommodation of teamsters and others. A long one-story building fitted up with stalls for horses and tie-ups for oxen, situated nearly opposite the present dwelling-house of C. C. Stevens, was built and maintained by the lessee of the cellar, Abial Kelley, Jr. After the lumber business had fallen off, so that the building was no longer used for the purpose for which it was originally intended, it was converted into a "Ninepin Alley," and was used as such and fairly patronized for two or three years. Not proving profitable, the building was taken down.

William Williams kept an assortment of goods in the store under Washington Hall, eastern end.

March. Daniel Wise, Jr., has built a store on the eastern end of and connected with the "old brick" store, and removed his stock of goods thereto. Francis A. Lord occupies store vacated by Wise & Bodwell and keeps for sale a good assortment of general merchandise; he disposed of his stock at auction and retired from business, September 20, 1826.

Barnabas Palmer removes his stock of goods and the post office to the store in the western part of the "old brick."

June 3. Jonathan Kimball occupies building recently vacated by Paul H. Hussey; has put a new carding machine therein and solicits patronage.

July 16. Daniel L. Hatch occupies store vacated by S. L. Osborn and offers for sale an assortment of goods usually kept in a country store; removes to store recently vacated by Barnabas Palmer in Kelley & Warren's Block; sells stock remaining on hand at auction, June 28, 1827, and relinquishes business.

August 25. William Bartlett occupies store east of Kelley & Warren's block and offers for sale a full assortment of dry goods, groceries, crockery, etc. He remained there only a few months, when he removed to Ogunquit, taking with him his stock of goods, opened a store there and engaged in the building of vessels of small tonnage. He was the first postmaster at that place.

September 3. Samuel Shackley advertises house for sale at the Landing, "near Mr. David Little's."

October 1. Lord & Kingsbury remove their stock of goods to the new brick store built by the senior partner, and Joseph G. Moody removes from the store under Washington Hall (west) to the store vacated by Lord & Kingsbury.

Daniel Wise, Jr., & Co. advertise the "small convenient store on the corner by the road leading from this town to Alfred." This probably was the building that stood between the printing office and the lot on which William Lord built his brick store.

December 12. James Titcomb forms a copartnership with Robert Smith, Jr., at Kennebunk Landing; advertises a full assortment of general merchandise for sale, and that they wish to purchase ship timber, etc.

December 30. Daniel Wise, Jr., & Co. dissolve partnership, business to be continued at the new store adjoining the "old brick"



under the firm name of Daniel Wise & Co., John Frost active partner.

Timothy Walcott's provision store, east end of Washington Hall building.

1826.

January. Edward Gould, in store opposite the "old brick," manufactures men's and youths' hats and buys hatting and shipping furs.

February. Dr. Burleigh Smart removes from Kennebunkport to Kennebunk and occupies house recently built by him (residence of F. N. Thompson).

February 18. Edmund Pierson gives notice to debtors that he is about to remove from this town.

March 6. The post office at Cape Neddock, York, first opened; Samuel Adams, postmaster.

April 5. First meeting of the members and stockholders of the Quamphagan Manufacturing Company in South Berwick was held.

April 17. John Fiddler advertises his household furniture, etc., at auction at his house (on lot now occupied by Capt. Benjamin Oaks's dwelling-house, Lower Village). Mr. Fiddler died early in July following. He was an Englishman by birth, a sailmaker by trade, and a great admirer and a successful cultivator of flowers; the grounds around his house were very tastefully laid out and filled with a large variety of annuals, biennials and perennials. His family removed to a Western town.

April 21. James L. Ross, "in the old Phoenix Building over the post office," continues the tailoring business.

April 22. Abel C. Smith occupies the Ebenezer Curtis store and offers for sale a large stock of general merchandise.

May. The Misses Grant commence a term of school for young ladies the third Monday of the month. "English branches taught. Also plain and ornamental needlework. Lace veils and edgings may be wrought so as not to be distinguished from those imported. Drawing, landscape painting in oil and water colors, painting on velvet, embroidery, tambour and filigree work. Tuition, three dollars per quarter for ornamental branches, one dollar and fifty cents for common branches. Board, including tuition, from fourteen to seventeen dollars per quarter."

August. Erastus Hayes and Daniel Walker, general merchandise, who occupied the store on Curtis's Wharf, Lower Village, dissolved copartnership. Walker continues the business at the same stand.

August 21. Joseph E. Littlefield commences a term of his private school in the village. Mr. Littlefield was a successful teacher. He not long afterward removed to Bangor, where he taught school for many years and was much respected as a citizen and highly valued as an instructor.

October 7. John Springer, at store just vacated by A. C. Smith, advertises a good stock of groceries for sale. Mr. Smith did not continue in trade at this place more than two years.

November. Miss Lucy Palmer advertises that she attends to the mantua-making business in the room adjoining Miss Grant's millinery shop.

December 30. Rowell Scribner occupies the cellar recently vacated by Abial Kelley, Jr.; accommodates teamsters and others and keeps an assortment of groceries for sale.

1827.

February 17. Charles Walcott, joiner, advertises for apprentice; forms copartnership with Nathaniel Perkins March twenty-second, shop next east of Porter & Hillard's tin shop; dissolves partnership May seventh. Walcott continues business and will also be supplied with a good assortment of household furniture for sale.

March 17. Susan Felch, milliner and dressmaker, offers her services to the ladies of Kennebunk and vicinity, shop over post office, in the "old brick building."

May 23. Dr. William S. Emerson, physician and surgeon, takes the room recently vacated by Doctor Markoe, in the bank building in Kennebunkport, and offers his professional services to the citizens of that and the neighboring towns.

Moses Nason resumes business, carding and cloth dressing, at Nason's Mills in Kennebunkport.

May 28. Miss Caroline M. Little commences a school for the instruction of young ladies and misses in all the branches usually taught in academic schools, in Washington Hall.

August. Rufus Furbish offers for sale a neat one-story dwelling-house, barn, blacksmith's shop and three-fourths of an acre of land. (Now owned by Mrs. William Storer. The house has been

enlarged and otherwise much improved since the above-named date. This was the first house built on Mechanic Street; the street was then nothing more than a lane, along the sides of which hazel bushes were abundant and in their season hazelnuts were gathered there in large quantities.)

Paul H. Hussey removed to Cat Mousam Falls in August, where he carried on the cloth dressing business.

October. "Tales of the Night," a novel by Mrs. Sallie Wood, of this town, author of "Julia," "The Speculator," "The Old Man's Story," etc.

November 5. The whole stock in trade of Owen Burnham was sold at auction; the sale continued for several days until the stock was disposed of. Mr. Burnham relinquished trade and removed to Bridgton.

Jesse L. Smith opens a school for instruction in penmanship. Mr. Smith was employed as teacher in the public school in the Village District for several terms.

November 8. William Gooch, assignee, sells at auction the entire stock of goods in the store of William Bartlett, at Ogunquit. A high-decked vessel of one hundred and ten tons, built by Bartlett, was subsequently sold by the assignee.

1828.

February 2. The home lot formerly owned and improved by Ebenezer Rand, devised by him to one Shackley, and by Shackley exchanged for a small farm in Lyman, belonging to Samuel B. Low, was sold by Low. Shackley removed to Lyman and Low to the Rand place. Low purchased or hired the building east of the Kelley & Warren building and for several years carried on the cabinet-making business quite extensively; he employed skilled workmen and manufactured some excellent furniture. He subsequently relinquished business here and removed to Sanford.

March. James L. Ross removes to Saco.

March 31. Oliver Bartlett sells at auction a house lot on Dane Street, together with a stable recently erected and a house frame with other lumber, window frames, etc. (This place subsequently became the property of Miss Mary Warren.)

April 9. William Lord sells his stock of goods at auction with the purpose of engaging in other business. He again occupied his store in 1830.



April 11. The farm, with the buildings thereon, owned and occupied for many years by Rev. N. H. Fletcher, was advertised to be let. Mr. George Perkins rented the estate two years, when it was sold to Nathaniel M. Towle.

April 15. Mrs. Murray, from Portland, opens a school for young ladies in Washington Hall, which she continued through the summer season; she was a popular and excellent teacher and her school was well patronized for two or three seasons. Mrs. Murray's husband was a major in the English service and had retired on half pay; he resided here while his wife was engaged in teaching. Mrs. Murray went from here to Hallowell, where she had a very large number of pupils and where she was greatly prized as a teacher.

November 14. Benjamin Dodge, in the store formerly occupied by Isaac Kilham, at Kennebunk Landing, offers for sale a good assortment of West India goods and groceries.

Daniel Shackford takes the bakehouse recently occupied by Oliver Bartlett and will carry on the baking business in all its branches; advertises flour for sale and that he wishes to buy hemlock and spruce faggots.

#### 1829.

February 28. The privilege where Merrill's mill formerly stood is advertised to lease for a term of ten years to a person disposed to erect a saw-mill thereon. The iron work, frame and boards belonging to Merrill's mill are advertised for sale. The frame had been taken down and with all the other woodwork piled up near by.

May 21. Porter & Hillard, tin business, dissolve copartnership.

November. Increase S. Kimball opens a law office over Lord & Kingsbury's store.

December. Edward Gould relinquishes the manufacture of hats and enters into the butchering and meat-market business. Continues the sale of hats, etc., until the fall of 1831, when he devotes his attention wholly to the meat business.

#### 1830.

March 1. Town & English take the bakehouse recently vacated by Daniel Shackford and carry on the baking business. Shackford continues the business at his dwelling-house.

Smith & Porter dissolve copartnership. Smith occupies the store and sells groceries at wholesale.

March 25. Joseph G. Moody sells his stock of goods at auction, relinquishes trade here and removes to Augusta.

William Lord procures a patent hay pressing machine, purchases loose hay from the farmers in this and the neighboring towns, has it pressed and ships to Southern ports. We do not know whether it was a profitable enterprise or otherwise, but it was very beneficial to hay growers in the vicinity. The barn and press were eventually destroyed by fire and Mr. Lord relinquished the business.

April 18. Bracy Curtis offers for sale, at auction, the William B. Nason farm (formerly known as the Currier farm), situated a few rods east of Rev. Mr. Wells's meeting-house, containing about forty-five acres, with farm buildings. The buildings were torn down a few years later. N. N. Wiggins's homestead lot is a part of this farm, as is also a portion of Hope Cemetery.

August 1. Joseph W. Tinum, a trader in Lower Kennebunk Village, relinquishes business.

August 20. John Emery & Co. (John Emery and Joseph Gillpatrick) dissolve copartnership. Emery, who had an excellent reputation as a manufacturer of edge tools, continues the business.

October 13. Greenough, Bodwell & Co. (Benjamin Smith, Horace Porter, Edward Greenough and John W. Bodwell) dissolve copartnership. Benjamin Smith adjusts the unsettled accounts of the firm. Stock in trade sold at auction February 24, 1831.

October 15. Chadbourne & Jenkins dissolve copartnership.

Dr. James Dorrance returns to this town from Portland and offers his professional services to the inhabitants.

November 15. The tanyard and buildings appurtenant thereto, the property of the late Jotham Perkins, were sold at auction.

December 25. Gould & Fairfield take the shop recently occupied by the late Edmund Lord and intend carrying on the blacksmith's business.

1831.

January 7. Town & English, bakers, dissolve copartnership. English continues the business.

March. Andrews & Bryant dissolve copartnership.

March 12. Palmer & Miller have removed to the "old brick" and occupy the late stand of Greenough, Bodwell & Co. Dissolve copartnership the twentieth of March the following year. Miller continues the business. About a year later he formed a copartnership with Porter Hall and Palmer resumed business as a trader in January, 1834.

April 4. I. B. N. Gould, tailor, commences business in town.

October 20. The three-story dwelling-house, store and building yard at the Landing is sold at auction by order of assignment of Tobias Lord; George and Ivory Lord, purchasers.

October 27. Daniel Wise & Co. (Daniel Wise and John Frost) dissolve copartnership. Wise continues the business until the following March, when he disposed of the stock at auction and the building was advertised "to be let."

October 29. The building formerly occupied by Andrews & Bryant as a shoe store, and now by Alexander G. Fernald as a bake-house, is offered for sale at auction by Abel M. Bryant.

1832.

May 2. Christopher Littlefield opens a private school in the village.

June 7. Joseph Storer sells Nathaniel Frost house at auction.

1833.

June. John G. Mayo, in the store recently vacated by Owen Burnham, offers for sale "a general assortment of dry goods, groceries, crockery and glassware." Mr. Mayo relinquished business and left town during the summer of 1836.

1834.

November. William Williams vacates store under Washington Hall.

December 30. Dr. J. H. Morse commences practice as a physician.

1835.

April 28. Joseph O. Stevens, hat store, under Washington Hall. Remained there perhaps two years.

Mr. Badlam,—school for painting and drawing,—an exceptionally fine teacher; he kept two or three terms here during the summer and autumn, and was well patronized.

August 15. Miller & Hall dissolve copartnership. Hall continued the business. Miller left town.

1836.

April 18. James and Isaac Lord dissolve copartnership. James Lord continues the business.



May 31. Bryant & Warren (William M. Bryant and Alexander Warren) advertise drugs and medicines at the small store on the corner of Main and Fletcher Streets. Succeeded Doctor Smart, in Kelley & Warren block, October, 1837. Dissolve copartnership November, 1838. Warren continued the business.

## 1837.

March. James Hubbard, in western store under Washington Hall, advertises good stock of paints, oils, etc., for sale.

Gould & Hubbard (Edward Gould and William Hubbard), butchering business.

William Lord and Joseph Curtis, under firm name of William Lord & Co., form copartnership for the sale of general merchandise.

April. S. Lombard, tailor, Frost's building.

July 15. William Leighton, Littlefield's building (triangular lot), offers for sale a large stock of general merchandise; sells stock at auction in April of the following year and removes from town.

October. S. Jordan, carpenter, purchases Doctor Smart's stock of drugs and medicines and removes it to his store under Washington Hall, lately vacated by William Williams. Afterward removes his stock to a small building erected by him on the heater lot formed by junction of the old and new Saco roads.

October 14. Simon L. Whitten, tailor, succeeds Lombard.

## 1838.

February 1. William and Thomas Lord, owners of the "Great Hill Farm," so-called, gave public notice "that the farm has been sold and deeded to Benjamin Wentworth, Joseph Gooch, Nathan Wells and Joseph Wells, with the following reservation in the deed, reserving to the inhabitants of Kennebunk the right of taking seaweed as they have heretofore enjoyed."

March 28. Charles W. Kimball takes the building east of Bryant & Warren's drug store, where he manufactures and repairs carriages of all kinds.

R. C. Raynes takes a shop in Littlefield's building, near the factory, for the manufacturing and repairing of boots and shoes, and offers for sale a good assortment of boots, shoes, etc.

July 17. Jeremiah Bradbury, lawyer, opens an office in the building formerly occupied by William Safford as a hatter's shop. He remained here only a few months.

December. Hildreth & Ayers, manufacturers of first-class furniture, keep a large stock of furniture, feathers, etc. Sell out at auction, August, 1840, and leave town.

1839.

March 1. H. H. Chadbourne takes the shop formerly occupied by his father, Elisha Chadbourne, and carries on the blacksmith's business.

Oaks & Cousens (Bradford Oaks and James G. Cousens) formed a copartnership and offered for sale a good assortment of general merchandise at the store in Lower Kennebunk Village afterward occupied by James G. Cousens. The copartnership was dissolved in February, 1842.

May 14. Jonathan Stone sells Mousam House at auction, having relinquished the hotel business on account of ill health.

August. Benjamin F. Emery, lawyer, takes office vacated by Jeremiah Bradbury. Mr. Emery removed to Boston a year or two later.

1840.

Abial Kelley, Jr., occupies a store formerly improved by Bryant & Warren, and offers for sale a stock of general merchandise. Mr. Kelley later removed to West Kennebunk and was a trader there for several years. He was appointed postmaster on the establishment of a post office in that village.

March 14. The copartnership existing under the firm name of P. & A. Walker was dissolved. Andrew Walker continued the business.

November. Daniel Hodsdon sold his dwelling-house at auction (afterward owned and occupied by Benjamin Perkins).

Noah Pike, botanic physician (rooms and office in house afterward owned by Eben Huff; he did not locate here but a short time).

1841.

April 5. Lord & Curtis dissolve copartnership. Under same date Joseph Curtis & Co. is formed (Joseph Curtis, William F. and William C. Lord).

June. Samuel Kimball opens a fish market "in the building adjoining the grist-mill."

November 20. Charles Herrick opens a boot and shoe store in the store (east) under Washington Hall.

Enoch Hardy advertises a handsome stock of English and American piece goods, crockery and glassware, groceries, etc.

1842.

Capt. Charles Williams occupied the eastern store under Washington Hall and offered a large stock of groceries, at wholesale, during the years 1842 and '43, when he relinquished business and was succeeded by William Williams, groceries at retail.



## CHAPTER XI.

EARLY METHOD OF GOING TO MARKET—MOUSAM RIVER LEGEND—  
THE TORNADO—THE FRESHET—CULTIVATION OF HEMP—CENSUS  
OF 1830—METEORIC SHOWER—THE SLIDE—ORTHOGRAPHY OF  
THE WORD "MOUSAM" AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF  
INTEREST DATING FROM 1820 TO 1843.

There were many unsuccessful attempts to maintain a meat market in the village before it was found possible to establish one that would afford the proprietor a fair remuneration for his labor and outlay. Beef was brought in occasionally from the country, and now and then, in the village or its vicinity, an ox or a cow would be slaughtered, a part of which would be marketed. Veal and lamb were abundant in the season for such meats, but as vehicles were much less common then than now they were usually brought on horseback and stowed in saddlebags; it may well be supposed that neither in quality nor appearance would they be improved after having been subjected to from five to fifteen miles' travel by this mode of transportation and mellowed by the peculiar motion caused by the animal's gait. It would be an amusing spectacle, in these days, should a woman—women generally did the marketing, especially during the season when the labor of the men was greatly needed on the farm—come into town on horseback, with flopping saddlebags, filled on both sides with quarters of veal or lamb, the bare joints of which protruded from six to eight inches outside the leather; but it was no unusual sight in days gone by, and one that excited neither special observation nor a disposition for merriment. Among the women who passed through our streets in this manner were those who were pure in heart, noble in mind and exemplary in every walk in life; they were the descendants of those who felled the forest and made the wilderness habitable,—the once rough and unsightly thus made productive and beautiful,—who successfully contended with the wily savage and who, defying poverty and danger, left their homes to engage in the great contest for freedom. These women made no apologies for homespun dresses; never declared that they "looked like frights"; that if the "weather had not been so threatening

in the morning they should have worn their silk dresses"; that "going to market was novel business to them, but the 'Squire or Papa was engaged at home with gentlemen visiting him from the city, and so they put on a bold front and came themselves." There was none of this; the women of yore were practical women, to whom we of the present day owe a debt of gratitude rarely appreciated, seldom acknowledged.

The market man or woman usually disposed of his or her load to one of the traders, by whom, if it were meat of any kind, it was hung out on the store door or window shutter as a notice that it was for sale; here the rays of the sun, the dust raised by the breeze or passing carriages, and the unauthorized, but unavoidable, attentions of the flies still further lessened the attractiveness of the food so exhibited. This custom prevailed for many years. By and by "rattlers" or wagons came into general use, and the commodities brought to market were in much better condition, although the shutter arrangement still continued. The evil most complained of was the want of regularity in the supply; one week there would be a large surplus of meats and perhaps for the following two or three weeks, and sometimes even longer, nothing of this kind could be found. Only in cool weather was fresh pork to be obtained, and we are told that it was neither expected nor desired. We must except, however, small pigs of from four to six weeks old; these were frequently offered in the spring, and the price demanded was seventy-five cents or one dollar, according to size! A housekeeper, rich or poor, was rarely found who did not fatten one or more swine to be killed about Christmas. It may be well to say, while on this subject, that there were seven or eight of the residents on "Zion's Hill," or in close proximity thereto—1818-1830—each of whom usually slaughtered two hogs annually, varying in weight from four hundred and fifty to five hundred pounds each. The first named was considered "light"; when it exceeded the last named, "a little extra."

Poultry, in the days of which we are speaking, was more abundant and in greater variety and less in price than at present. Pigeons were very plentiful, say from July to September inclusive. Our Plains district, then as now, was famous for the production of huckleberries, and cereals were cultivated to a greater extent than in later years, affording a considerable acreage of stubble. The pigeons did not overlook this liberal provision of palatable food; hereabout was one of their favorite resorts, and very many were killed each season,

but without causing any apparent diminution of their numbers. They have now almost entirely deserted us; poles, booths, flitterers or stool pigeons and nets are no longer, in this section, requisites for gunning parties. Probably the increase of population, bringing a *pro rata* increase of sportsmen, the cutting off of the growth and the noises occasioned by machinery have led them to seek quarters more congenial to their habits and less frequented by seekers after game. Wild geese and wild ducks, formerly often found on the tables of our citizens, are becoming rare; these birds have also found other feeding grounds. The pretty and agile little sand birds, which in olden time abounded on our beaches, and which by some persons are much esteemed for cooking in the form of "pot-pies," visit us now in smaller groups and appear to be more sensitive to sights and sounds.

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If legend can be relied upon, the banks of the Mousam River were once visited by a personage whose fame has been known in all ages of man's existence and through all inhabited lands. There was a large boulder a few rods below the village saw-mill which bore a mysterious imprint, said to be the impress of the cloven foot of his Satanic majesty. He must have bounded upon it with a heavy tread or placed the limb there while the once molten rock was yet soft and pliable. What troops of boys and girls have visited this rock, some incredulous, with merry jest, others hardly daring to disbelieve, timidly and with awestruck mien. The rock has been split up and utilized, and the sturdy oak, with its broad branches and lobate leaves, that stood near by, offering its refreshing shade to young and old who during the long summer days were attracted thither by curiosity or were on their way to the fishing boats or to labor in the fields, is of the past, a thing for memory to dwell upon. Whence this legend is not known, nor is it easy to imagine what could have induced the old fellow to visit this locality in person. He was not interviewed.

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At the second session of the Legislature of Maine, January, 1821, an act was passed "authorizing the towns of Kennebunk and Arundel to maintain a free bridge over Kennebunk River"; also an act to "cede to the United States of America the jurisdiction of a part of the beach at the mouth of Kennebunk River."



The building occupied by William Hackett as a dry goods and grocery store, and by James K. Remich as a printing office, took fire about noon the twenty-fifth of January, 1821, in consequence of a defect in a chimney which stood on the attic floor and was built for the purpose of receiving the funnel from the printing-office stove. The attic floor and roof were considerably damaged; the printing apparatus was seriously injured by its removal and Mr. Hackett's goods were somewhat damaged from the same cause.

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George B. Emerson, second son of Dr. Samuel Emerson, was appointed principal master of the English Classical School in Boston in February, 1821.

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Aaron Green taught private school in the village several terms in 1821 and 1822, most of the time in the Frost store, one or two terms in Washington Hall. He afterward took charge of "Goff's Mill Tannery," and later still resided at Cape Porpoise as inspector of the customs for that port.

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It is said that the following is a true copy of a sign attached to a log cabin in Biddeford woods early in the century:

"Iniens  
Taters  
Lasses  
Pickled Fish and  
New laid Eggs by  
Hannah Hammond.'

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The publication of the "Religious Magazine," by John Buzzell, of Parsonsfield, was commenced in January, 1822, and was issued from the *Kennebunk Gazette* office. It was the organ of the Freewill Baptists and the first publication of the kind issued under the auspices of that then recently formed denomination. Eight numbers, duodecimo size, issued quarterly, constituted a volume of two hundred and eighty-eight pages, price one dollar per volume. Two volumes were published, when the *Morning Star*, printed weekly at Limerick, took its place; Elders Buzzell and Libby, proprietors and editors. Mr. Remich sold to the new establishment a printing

press, a few fonts of type and some office furniture, to which were added new materials, purchased in Boston, sufficient for the then present needs of its business. This movement was a success from the start. The paper increased rapidly in circulation and popularity, until it was found expedient to remove the establishment to Dover, N. H. Here, under the management of a stock company, its growth was wonderful; the humble Ramage press was cast aside and power presses employed, denominational books were published, the paper enlarged, and it became one of the largest and most prosperous publishing houses in New England, while the *Star*, always ably conducted, gained a position among the foremost of the religious periodical publications of the day. The establishment was removed from Dover to Boston in 1884, where the paper maintains the high character it had attained for ability and usefulness; the business operations of this concern have been largely increased.

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Charles Stevens, of Kittery, was arraigned at the bar of the Supreme Judicial Court, sitting at Alfred, the twenty-ninth of August, 1822, on an indictment for the murder of his son, Charles H. C. Stevens. The prisoner pleaded not guilty. As he was not ready for trial, the case was continued to the next term at York, to be held in April, 1823, during which term he was tried and acquitted by the jury. The trial was reported by William B. Sewall, of Kennebunk, and published by James K. Remich at the *Gazette* office.

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Rev. Moses Sweat died in Sanford August 31, 1822, aged sixty-eight years. He was ordained as pastor of the Congregational Society in that town in July, 1786. "His early advantages were few; neither a collegiate nor an academic education fell to his lot, but with persevering industry he applied his mind to the study of the learned languages, and such was his proficiency that for more than twenty of the last years of his life he was able to read the Greek and Roman classics with no ordinary degree of fluency, and could also read the Holy Scriptures with understanding in the Hebrew, Syriac, Ethiopic, Arabic and Persian tongues."

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On the sixth of September, 1822, the dwelling-house of Stephen Webber, at Kennebunk Landing, was destroyed by fire, together

with all the furniture, clothing, etc., leaving the family entirely destitute of all the necessities of life.

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The Legislature of Maine, during the session of 1823, passed an act to authorize the town of Kennebunk to maintain a bridge over the Mousam River on the lower road from Wells to the lower village in Kennebunk (School District No. 1).

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Twenty-four kegs of gunpowder, each containing twenty-five pounds, exploded in one of the principal streets of Dover, N. H., on the twentieth day of June, 1823. The kegs were packed in straw in a wagon which was drawn by two horses. A small quantity of the powder, say two ounces in all, had escaped from the kegs, which, being observed by the owner, was carefully swept from the floor of the wagon on to the ground. A boy, noticing this, conceived the idea of "having some fun" by igniting the waste powder, and procuring a coal of fire applied it to the powder, the blaze of which reached the straw in the wagon, which was at once in flames, when the horses took fright and ran down the street. Two men at work in a hatter's shop, seeing the runaway horses and blazing wagon, rushed into the street with the intention of stopping and unharnessing the horses; they were warned of their danger, but probably did not distinctly understand what was said to them, and before their generous purpose was half completed a fearful explosion took place. The men lived several hours, suffering beyond description. One of them was Abbot L. Kelley, of Waterborough, an excellent young man. He served his apprenticeship with Kelley & Warren, of this town. He was engaged to the daughter of the senior member of the firm, by whom his memory was always faithfully cherished. She subsequently declined several offers of marriage by persons in good standing. She died a few years ago at an age exceeding eighty years.

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Mr. Remich printed for John Buzzell and Elias Libby, at the *Gazette* office, in 1823, "Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs, selected for the use of the united churches of Christ commonly called Free Will Baptist, and for saints of all denominations, by John Buzzell, minister of the gospel," three hundred and forty-eight pages, duo-



decimo size. It was very neatly printed for the time. We think the edition was about five thousand copies. It was the first bound volume of hymns, prepared expressly for this purpose, that was used by the denomination. Elder Benjamin Randall, of New Durham, N. H., the originator of the sect, prepared and published an eighteen mo. pamphlet, containing about fifty hymns, about 1800. Only a small edition was printed. Samuel Bragg, Jr., at the *Dover Sun* office, was the printer. James K. Remich, then an apprentice in this office, was the compositor by whom the manuscript of this volume was put in type.

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Mr. Jotham Young, while engaged in firing a salute with a small cannon, or "swivel," on Monday morning, fifth of July, 1824, was suddenly deprived of life. "At the seventh discharge the gun burst and one of the pieces struck him on the head, laying it open to the brain; he instantly fell, insensible, breathed a few moments and then expired." This accident happened near the blacksmith's shop at the easterly corner of the cemetery. Young was in the twenty-ninth year of his age. He was the son of Joseph Young, who married Martha, daughter of Reuben Hatch, in 1786; he died in 1809; his widow survived him many years. Jotham married Hannah Sherman; he left two sons, both of whom died prior to 1840.

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A destructive fire occurred in the heart of the village, between the hours of two and three, on Tuesday morning, August 3, 1824. It originated in the barn of John H. Bartlett, which was soon burned to the ground, as were the dwelling-house and some outbuildings in close proximity thereto. The dwelling-house of Palmer Walker, on the west, and a three-story cabinet-maker's shop and furniture warehouse, improved by Daniel Hodsdon, on the east side of these buildings, were soon destroyed, as well as the interior of the brick store erected by Waterston & Pray in 1809, afterward sold to John U. Parsons, and at the time occupied by Greenough, Bodwell & Co.

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The Congregational meeting-house in Kennebunkport Village was dedicated the fifth of October, 1824.

The dwelling-house of David Thompson, Jr., was destroyed by fire, together with most of his furniture, and all of his corn, potatoes, etc., on the twelfth of November, 1825. It caught on the roof by a spark from the chimney. The males belonging to the family being away from home, assistance could not be obtained in season to save the house or any considerable part of its contents.

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The York County members of the Medical Society of Maine met at Towle's Inn, March 2, 1826. Dr. Burleigh Smart, secretary. Oration at the meeting-house by Samuel Emerson, M. D.

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May 17, 1826, at about half-past three in the afternoon, Kennebunk was visited by a tornado unparalleled in this locality for its severity and destructiveness. The day had been very warm, the thermometer ranging between ninety and one hundred, when a few clouds appeared in the west, which accumulated rapidly and soon sent forth a blast of wind that for a few moments was really terrific, "filling the air with clouds of dust, gravel stones, limbs of trees, boards, etc.; tearing up by the roots or breaking off large trees; blowing down or unroofing barns and sheds and prostrating fences. Persons who were at work in their fields were compelled to lie down upon the ground or to hold on to stumps to save themselves from being driven before it." A fine growth of pine, maple and oak timber (then known as Remich's and Storer's Woods), near the village, experienced its most destructive current; here about six hundred trees, measuring from two and a half to three feet in diameter six or eight feet from the butt, were torn up by the roots and piled one upon another in sad confusion. The gale continued its destructive course, in an easterly direction, across the river to Kennebunkport, where a saw-mill on the east side of Kennebunk River was blown down and part of the roof was torn from the Congregational meeting-house, near Robert Towne's; much valuable growth and nearly all the fences in its path were laid low. A Mr. Adams, who was riding on horseback, was blown, together with his saddle, from the horse; Mr. Adams was somewhat, but not seriously, bruised. In Berwick and the western part of Wells considerable damage was done to buildings, growth and fences. The width of the gale was about four miles, but its most violent and destructive current was

confined to a width of about one-eighth of a mile. It left the land in the vicinity of Cape Porpoise and exhausted its force on the ocean. Where it commenced is not known.

In Wells the "Great Elm," situated about one and a half miles from the ocean, was blown down. This calamity was much mourned. The giant tree had been, for many years, a highly prized landmark for navigators of vessels entering Wells Harbor. It measured twenty-seven and a half feet in circumference; it was forty feet from its foot to a crotch and from thence twenty feet to the first limb; above this, limbs were plentiful, and many of them of great length and thickness. The top of the tree was much broken by its fall, so that its great height could not be ascertained; it, however, loomed considerably more than one hundred feet into the air.

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On Monday, April 23, 1827, a moderate rain storm commenced, which continued until Tuesday forenoon, from which time until about three o'clock Wednesday morning the rain descended in torrents. This unusual rainfall caused the rivers and small streams in Kennebunk to overflow their banks; the waters of the Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers were higher than they had been for many years before. On the Mousam a part of the dam, with the bulkhead, at Mitchell's Mill was swept away, the water rushing through the mill with great violence. In the village the utmost exertions of the citizens were found necessary to preserve the mills, dam and bridge from destruction. Most of the bridges on the stream were more or less injured, but none were rendered unsafe and all were promptly repaired.

On Kennebunk River the carding mill of Moses Nason was entirely swept away, and a grist-mill near by, in which another carding machine was operated, was much injured; the water made a complete passage around the mill and dam. Mr. Nason's loss was estimated at one thousand dollars. At the Landing, on the same river, many piles of boards, containing from ten to twenty-five thousand each, were swept from the wharves and floated down stream until arrested in their progress, and with the aid of manual labor, oxen and ropes were dragged to the shore and landed on the flats and mowing fields. Durrell's Bridge, for the safety of which great fears were entertained, withstood the onset of the mad torrent, together with the vast quantity of lumber, ship timber and logs that was hurled against it with terrific force by the rushing water.



The dam at Goff's Mill Tannery, in Kennebunkport, was destroyed and the old grist-mill swept away.

On Cape Neddock River the clothing mill of Mr. Cotton Chase, at the outlet of Chase's Pond and about five miles above the harbor, was carried away, sweeping before it four bridges which crossed the river at different places.

The Saco River rose to an uncommon height; the cellars under several buildings situated on its banks, in Saco and Biddeford, were completely filled and several families on "Poor Island" abandoned their houses; part of Smith's Bridge, in Saco, was destroyed. In Buxton, part of Smith's Bridge, part of Bar Mills Bridge, a double saw-mill at Moderation Falls, a single saw-mill at Bar Mills and a double saw-mill at Salmon Falls were destroyed. The loss of manufactured lumber and logs on the river and its tributaries was quite large.

In Eliot a milldam was swept away, as were several bridges on the road from Kittery to South Berwick.

Great damage was reported in the adjoining counties and in the eastern part of the State. In New Hampshire much damage was sustained on the large rivers and their tributaries.

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Rev. Jonathan Greenleaf, of Wells, was advised by a council of ministers and delegates convened to take the subject into consideration, September 2, 1828, to dissolve his connection with the First Parish in Wells, unless the parish complied with certain conditions stated in their report. These conditions were not complied with and the connection was dissolved. Mr. Greenleaf had been invited to become the agent of the Seamen's Friend Society and preacher to the seamen in Boston, and decided to accept the proffered situation. "A Parishioner" in the *Gazette* severely criticised the action of Mr. Greenleaf and of the council.

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Jonas Clark, judge of probate, resigned his office, on account of ill health, in September, 1828, and William A. Hayes, of South Berwick, was appointed by Governor Lincoln to fill the vacancy thus occasioned.

There were thirty-three papers published in this State in 1828; twenty-five of them were political, of which eighteen supported the national administration and seven opposed it; six religious papers, of which two advocated the doctrinal views held by the Calvinist Baptists, one Orthodox Congregationalist, one Universalist, one Free Will Baptist, and one was devoted to the suppression of intemperance; there were two literary journals, the *Argus* and the *Advertiser* (Portland), which published semi-weekly editions. Nineteen years before (1809), when Mr. Remich established his paper here, there were only six papers published in the State; two at Portland, two at Hallowell, one at Augusta and one at Castine. The two last named were discontinued within the year 1809.

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James Osborn, Jr., was appointed postmaster of Kennebunk in place of Barnabas Palmer, resigned, May, 1829.

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The cultivation of hemp was a subject of inquiry and discussion among our practical and amateur farmers in 1828, '29 and '30, and quite a number of them, by way of experiment, appropriated a small piece of ground to its production. These efforts did not result in an entire failure, nor were they sufficiently successful to warrant the expectation that it could be made a profitable crop. Many fine samples of the product of this plant, in different parts of the town, were exhibited. Among these was a stalk measuring eleven inches, selected from a small but excellent crop grown in the village. On Paul Shackford's farm, adjoining Alewife Pond, a good degree of success attended its cultivation. This farm of about eighty acres, with a small house and barn thereon, was sold by the heirs in 1829. The Paul Shackford above named was, we presume, the son of the Paul Shackford who built the first house in the village of Kennebunkport in 1740. Bradbury says: "He was a ship carpenter and removed to the plains [on the east side of the Mousam, near George Thompson's] before 1755, where he built quite a large vessel and hauled her to the sea."

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February 26, 1830, Mr. Joshua Thompson, of this town, was killed at Bramhall's Hill, near Portland. When descending the hill

he was thrown down, while attempting to lessen the speed of his oxen, and one of the wheels of his loaded ox cart passed directly over his breast; he died after lingering five hours.

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Eliphalet Perkins and one hundred and twenty-five others petition the Maine Legislature of 1830, representing "that the road leading from the interior of the county, through the towns of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, to the harbor of Kennebunk may be considerably shortened and materially improved by a new road so as to pass with a bridge, which may be built, with the authority of the Legislature, across the Kennebunk River at a place called the Narrows, about a quarter of a mile above the principal wharves on said river; and that a bridge at said place would not obstruct the navigation in any considerable degree, but that a free bridge thus located would *very much* promote the convenience and the benefit of the public."

A committee to lay out the road, as described in this petition, was appointed by the Court of Sessions for York County, which duty was duly performed.

The Legislature authorized the county commissioners to lay out a public highway over the tide waters of the Kennebunk River, and a petition was presented to the county commissioners, at the May term of their Court, that they would lay out the proposed road: "beginning in the village of Kennebunkport, at or near Benjamin F. Mason's, and running to the lower narrows on the Kennebunk River, and thence, after passing said river in Kennebunk, to or near Towne's Bridge, so-called," and also that they "lay out a public highway over the narrows aforesaid, and require the towns of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport to build and maintain a free bridge over said narrows." The petitioners say that "the great importance of a bridge in this place is in the improvements that can thereby be made in opening a shorter, easier and more convenient road than can be located in any other place, with the view of facilitating the intercourse between Kennebunk and the country." The commissioners appointed the second day of August ensuing for viewing the route and hearing the parties interested in the matter. The proprietors of the toll bridge, on or before the last-named day, consented to dispose of the property on terms satisfactory to the citizens of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, and, consequently, no farther



action was required on the part of the commissioners. The *Gazette* of the thirteenth of August, 1831, announces that "the bridge known as the 'toll bridge,' which connects the two towns, is now and will continue to be a *free bridge*." A county road was located over it a short time afterward.

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The village bridge over the Mousam was rebuilt in the autumn of 1830, under the superintendence of Capt. Ralph Curtis. It was regarded as a very excellent structure. It cost nearly twenty-two hundred dollars, which was about four hundred dollars less than it was generally supposed would be required for its erection. The town borrowed the money to defray the bills at four per cent. per annum.

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On November 20, 1830, Mr. John C. Hatch and Mr. Tristram Littlefield, both of this town, while attempting to cross the river, near Cat Mousam Mills, in an unsafe punt, were overset and drowned.

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By the census of this town in 1830 the whole number of inhabitants was two thousand two hundred and thirty-six, showing an increase of population in ten years of only ninety-one (population in 1820, two thousand one hundred and forty-five). Number of males, one thousand and forty-five; of females, one thousand one hundred and ninety-one; aliens, six; blind, two; colored, three.

By the census of Kennebunkport for 1830 the whole number of inhabitants was two thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven (increase over that of 1820, two hundred and seventy-nine). Number of males, one thousand three hundred and forty-one; of females, one thousand four hundred and sixteen; deaf and dumb, two; blind, four; aliens, four; colored, nine.

The census of York County in 1830 showed the population to be fifty-one thousand seven hundred and ten; deaf mutes, thirty-three; blind, thirty-six; aliens, twenty-five; colored, seventy-eight (decrease of colored population since 1820, twenty-four; aliens increased, two. The total increase throughout the county in ten years was five thousand four hundred and twenty-seven). Taxable polls, eight thousand five hundred and twenty-nine; valuation, three million seven hundred and thirty-one thousand, six hundred and fifty-nine dollars.

The population of the State in 1830 was three hundred and ninety-nine thousand, three hundred and eighty-three, showing an increase since 1820 of one hundred and one thousand and forty-eight and an aggregate gain of thirty-three and one-half per cent. Number of incorporated towns, two hundred and twenty-nine; plantations and unorganized territories, one hundred and forty-six.

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James Osborn, Jr., and twenty-nine others petition the county commissioners to straighten the road leading from James Titcomb's (now George Dresser's) to the lower village in Kennebunk, or a new one laid out, May, 1831. Hearing assigned for August second. The commissioners laid out the road commencing near and west of the Titcomb place and running to William Mitchell's (now Rev. W. H. Mitchell's). This not only shortened the distance, but has proved to be an advantageous movement.

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A bear was killed near Cape Porpoise Village in November, 1831.

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The *Gazette* of November 27, 1831, contains a long communication from Mr. William M. Bryant, describing his method of instruction as teacher of the public school in the village, the work performed by teacher and pupils, the success that had attended his efforts, and pointing out the advantages that would result from the general adoption of his system. The article was timely and sensible, and might profitably be read, at this day, by teachers and parents. Mr. Bryant was a very successful instructor in this town for several years.

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An act revoking the charter of Kennebunk Bank was passed by the Legislature of Maine during the session of 1831. The capital stock of this institution had been reduced from one hundred thousand dollars to fifty thousand in May of the previous year. Twenty-five thousand dollars of the capital stock were paid to the stockholders April first, 1831. It was unfortunate in its business transactions, and the stockholders considered it advisable, in view of its condition, to wind up its affairs. The bank building was sold at auction

the twenty-seventh of February, 1832, and its concerns finally closed up the seventeenth of the following month. The building was purchased by Capt. Eliphalet Perkins, by whom it was sold to the United States for a custom house.

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A powerful rain storm visited New England April 8, 1833. In this town it caused the river to rise to an unusual height. Several mills were damaged and a number of small bridges were carried away.

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Hon. Daniel Goodenow, of Alfred, delivered an address on "Temperance," in Rev. Mr. Wells's meeting-house, on the afternoon of the Fourth of July, 1833. It was a dispassionate and candid consideration of the subject, and was listened to with close attention and evidently with much gratification by a large assemblage of our citizens.

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A sturgeon, six and one-half feet in length, was taken from Kennebunk River, at the Landing, in July, 1833. It had been many years since a fish of this species had been seen in that stream.

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A meteoric phenomenon was observed by early risers on the morning of November 13, 1833, which was singularly beautiful,—a grand display of the wonderful in nature. One of our citizens (Capt. James Hubbard), having occasion to be abroad at an early hour, noticed this remarkable appearance about an hour and a half before daylight, and at once proceeded to the houses of several of his friends and aroused them from their slumbers, in order that they might witness the unequalled exhibition. The author was one of those thus favored. When first seen, numberless meteors were careening through the air in all directions; their appearance was not dissimilar to that of common "shooting stars," although one would occasionally burst like a rocket, emitting a bright light and with a flash resembling lightning. They gradually increased in number, falling from the zenith to the horizon, until the air appeared to be completely filled with them. This unsurpassed exhibition continued until the morning twilight lessened their brilliancy and to the eye of



the beholder diminished their number, and gradually fading, until the appearance of the sun above the horizon rendered them no longer visible. The "meteoric shower" has been observed in clear weather, with more or less distinctness, from that time to the present, in the same month and generally on the same day of the month, but all of them have fallen far short, in magnitude or splendor, of the marvelous display first noticed, which elicited much comment by scientific men throughout the country. The weather the preceding day had been variable, but was, on the morning of the thirteenth, clear and cold. The next day, in this vicinity, there was a heavy rain storm, accompanied with vivid lightning and hail, and on the day following there was a severe thunder shower. Rev. Mr. Tracy, of Saco, having been called up to witness the phenomenon, rang the church bell, so that the alarm might call the people from their beds and enable them to witness the extraordinary spectacle.

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A curious migration took place at the Landing during the night of June 11, 1834. About one-fourth of an acre of land, on the eastern bank of Kennebunk River, opposite the dwelling-house of the late Mr. Benjamin Durrell, the site of which is now vacant, in Kennebunkport, slid into the river, carrying away nearly one-half of Durrell's (draw) Bridge, and nearly filling up the channel for a rod or more. Where, on Wednesday, a ship of the largest size then built on the river might have laid afloat, on Thursday morning the river could be forded without difficulty. The land moved in a solid mass, and the apple trees upon it stood as firmly and as erect, and looked as flourishing, in their new situation as they did the previous day on the location where they were reared. The slide was accompanied by a noise resembling an earthquake, which cannot be considered as at all remarkable.

This slide occurred in the immediate vicinity of that which was regarded with so much wonder by learned and distinguished men about 1670, and concerning which such exaggerated accounts were written. Hubbard, in his History, says: "This accident fell out in the year 1670." It was probably very similar to that above mentioned; in extent not much, if any, greater, and we have no reason to suspect that it was in any respect more wonderful, but it occurred in a superstitious age.

The York County Temperance Society held a meeting in the Unitarian Church December 17, 1834. It was largely attended.

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The building owned by Daniel Wise and for a time occupied by him as a store was purchased in 1835 by Jonathan Stone, of Kennebunkport, by whom it was fitted up for a hotel, which was in successful operation in the autumn of 1836. It was called the "Mousam House." The orthography of the word Mousam had not then been settled. It was spelled by different persons Mousam, Mousom and Mousum, most frequently in the manner last named. Mr. Stone proposed to paint the name of his house, in large letters, across the front of the building. The painter had drawn out the letters *Mous*, when he turned toward Mr. Stone and inquired, "What is the next letter?" Mr. Stone did not know. Several of the old citizens were standing near and an appeal was made to them; they differed as to the most correct method. Mr. Dane, Sr., was one of the bystanders, and he remarked that it was high time that the orthography of this word was established and added: "I propose, gentlemen, that one of our number wait upon Daniel Remich, submit the question to him, and his decision evermore be considered as a finality." The proposition was warmly seconded by Mr. Stone and the other gentlemen present. Mr. Remich, in answer to the committee, said that he had frequent occasion to write the word and had invariably spelled it Mousam, not because he had any authority founded on a knowledge of the Indian dialect, but because he regarded it as a smother word when pronounced and more agreeable to the eye when written. He would recommend that *am* should be the established orthography of the terminal syllable. The report of the committee was well received; the "next letter" was a. The people of Sanford, Alfred and others interested in the subject heartily seconded the recommendation. From that day to the present Mousam has, we believe, been accepted and adopted as the proper method of spelling the word.

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The dwelling-house on Dane Street owned for some years by Mrs. Mehitabel Nason, and at the time owned by Edward Gould and occupied by him and Daniel Nason, Jr., took fire during the night of January 16, 1837, but by the prompt and well-directed exertions of the

inhabitants of the village was saved from destruction; two rooms and an entry-way were seriously damaged and a considerable part of the furniture more or less injured.

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The heavens presented a singular but beautiful appearance on the evening of January 24, 1837, from six to eleven o'clock. In the early part of the evening a broad arch, of elegant crimson color, extended from the northwestern to the eastern horizon, and subsequently spread in almost every direction, lighting up the heavens with great brilliancy. It excited the interest as well as the admiration of our citizens, and was regarded here, as well as in other places where seen, as the most grand and beautiful exhibition of this inexplicable aerial phenomenon (the Northern Lights) ever witnessed in this latitude.

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Notice was given by the State Treasurer, April, 1837, that the first and second installments of the surplus revenue were ready to be paid to authorized agents of the cities and towns therein. The inhabitants of Kennebunk voted, May first, "that the portion allotted to this town be loaned by the Town Treasurer to individuals and heads of families, citizens of the town, each [men, women and children] being entitled to an equal portion of the whole sum received, and to make an entry thereof on his books, to the end that the same may be collected when called for by the State, and the receipt of each individual on said books for the sum loaned shall be taken as ample security to the town and be deemed a full and sufficient voucher to the Treasurer."

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Fire was discovered in a large barn belonging to Mr. William Lord and connected by a shed with his dwelling-house, September 21, 1837. The alarm was given about sunset. The barn, shed and other outbuildings, together with a valuable patent hay press, a horse, cow, a few tons of hay, chaise, wagon, sleighs and many other articles fell a prey to the devouring element in a very short space of time. The L part of the house was severely damaged, but it was saved from entire destruction, although a portion of the roof and of the woodwork in the chambers was completely charred.



The "History of Kennebunkport from its first discovery, 1602, to 1837, by Charles Bradbury," was published early in the autumn of 1837, a duodecimo volume of three hundred and one pages. This is an exceedingly interesting and valuable work, now nearly out of print; copies of it have recently been sold at very high prices. It was prepared with great care by Captain Bradbury, who was unwearied in his efforts to render it authentic and exhaustive. Mr. Williamson, author of the "History of Maine," commended it very highly.

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Accompanying the report of the Secretary of War to the President, in December, 1837, was a "statement showing the prominent points along the sea frontier which will require attention, and for which no plans or projects have yet been made by the Board of Engineers." Among the prominent points named are the mouth of Saco River, of the Kennebunk River and at York, where works should be erected with thirty guns (ten each, we presume); garrison in peace, twenty-five; in war, one hundred.

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Sherburne's meeting-house, situated in the upper part of Kennebunkport, was sold at auction May 5, 1838. One of the conditions of sale was that it should be taken down and the materials removed within sixty days from date of sale. This meeting-house was built about 1800. Elder Sherburne was the first and we think the only settled minister over this society. He commenced his ministerial labors in January, 1803, "a Baptist church was constituted with thirteen members in June," and he was ordained in September of that year. The society was incorporated by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1806. "It was not a territorial parish, but the members of it belonged in all parts of the town." Elder Sherburne left the society in 1817 and in 1818 removed to Ohio. He did not succeed well there, "but became poor and almost destitute. In 1827 he wrote his memoirs and the next year visited Kennebunkport and the neighboring towns to make sale of his work and realized a handsome sum." He died in Ohio about 1829.

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Adoniram Hardison, aged forty-five years, was drowned, while fishing, a few miles from the mouth of Mousam River. He fell overboard from a small boat; his companion was unable to rescue him.

The population of Kennebunk in 1840 was two thousand three hundred and seventy-three, again showing an increase in ten years of only ninety-one.

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Daniel Remich was appointed collector of the customs for the Port and District of Kennebunk, in place of Barnabas Palmer, whose commission had expired, March, 1841.

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Samuel Mendum was appointed postmaster of Kennebunk, in place of James Osborn, removed, June, 1841, and entered upon the duties of the office the first day of July.

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The valuation of Kennebunk in 1841 was four hundred and forty-two thousand nine hundred and one dollars, an increase in ten years of two hundred and eighteen thousand eight hundred and four dollars.

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The old State Militia system was abolished in 1843.

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE SOCIAL LIBRARY—LITERARY SOCIETY—LYCEUMS—TEMPERANCE.

Under an act of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, entitled "An Act to enable the proprietors of Social Libraries to manage the same," and on the petition of George W. Wallingford, John U. Parsons, Timothy Frost, Benjamin Smith, Joseph Storer and Samuel Emerson, a warrant was issued December 12, 1801, by Joseph Thomas, justice of the peace, to George W. Wallingford, requiring him to call a meeting of said proprietors, to be held at Barnard's Tavern on the twenty-second of said month; at said time and place the proprietors met and organized by the choice of Rev. N. H. Fletcher, moderator, and G. W. Wallingford, clerk; a librarian, collector and treasurer were also chosen. The proprietary was divided into eighty-six shares, at five dollars each, and two cents per week, per volume, were to be charged for books taken from the library. Committees were chosen to draw up a code of by-laws and to present a list of books.

Two hundred and twenty-four volumes of valuable books were purchased, embracing histories, biographies, travels and a choice selection of miscellaneous literature; the standard works were chiefly English editions, octavo size, and nicely bound. Probably better selections, in each department, could not have been made at the time. These volumes were extensively read. Later were added "Mavor's Voyages" and "Tours," in twenty-eight volumes, abridgments of all the important voyages and tours that had been made from the earliest period up to near the close of the seventeenth century. We think it safe to say that these volumes were read by the greater part of the boys, as well as by a goodly number of the girls, in the village between the ages of twelve and seventeen. They were sought for with as much avidity, and read with as much interest, as are the dime novels and other light literature at the present day, and with how much greater benefit. The one imparted knowledge of the utmost value, aided in giving solidity to the character, and furnished essential material for the building up of a respectable and useful manhood or womanhood; the other is enervating the minds



of its readers, instilling notions that may lead to degeneracy or crime, and unfitting them for the perusal of books of genuine worth. Nor were adults the only readers of the larger volumes; it was not unusual to see minors, of both sexes, interested readers of American history and biography, as well as of Hume, Gibbon, Barthélemy's Travels of Anacharsis the Younger, Shakespeare,—indeed, few or none of the volumes on the library shelves were passed by, either by adult or minor, as dry and uninteresting. These are facts that may be profitably pondered to-day.

Nearly forty volumes of the then recent publications in the several departments of literature above named were added to the library in 1838, for the purchase of which an assessment was laid on the proprietors. Time wore on. The books in the library had been generally read. Light literature had become easily accessible; it was fascinating, did not require sober thought or more than a modicum of culture to read it fluently, and it grew popular. Valuable books were published in this country at low prices, and many began to form home libraries. The old library was therefore neglected. It was not practicable to increase it by the addition of sound and safe works. Books were taken out and not returned, requests for privileges forbidden by the by-laws were frequent, and under the circumstances the stockholders deemed it advisable to sell the books, library case, etc., at auction. In accordance with a vote of the stockholders, it was so disposed of on the evening of December 1, 1853. Thus a time-honored institution of Kennebunk disappeared. For more than half a century it had been a quiet but efficient worker of good,—how great or widely spread that good, no estimate can be formed.

#### LITERARY SOCIETY.

A society with the title of "The Literary and Moral Society of Kennebunk" was formed in April, 1818, by gentlemen residing in the village. It consisted of about twenty-five members. Meetings were held fortnightly, at which subjects of a literary, moral and religious character were discussed. An oration and a poem, by members, were to be delivered annually and the exercises were to be public; the leading periodical publications of that day were taken for the use of its members.

The first anniversary of the society was celebrated on the evening of the twenty-eighth of April, 1819. The members, each of whom wore an appropriate badge, marched in procession to the

meeting-house, where an oration was delivered by Israel W. Bourne and a poem by William S. Emerson. Miss Eliza M. Moody (afterward Mrs. William T. Vaughan, of Portland,) presided at the organ, which was accompanied by "a select choir of female voices only." After the exercises at the church had been concluded, the members of this society marched to Jefferds's Hotel (then kept by George Jefferds), "where they partook of an elegant supper," which was succeeded by several excellent toasts.

The society, in March, 1820, issued proposals for publishing, in Kennebunk, a fortnightly literary paper, to be called the "Maine Literary Journal," to be printed on first quality paper, on long primer type, of the form and fold of the "Philadelphia Post Folio," eight pages quarto, at one dollar and fifty cents per annum. A sufficient number of subscribers was not obtained to warrant its publication, however.

Its second anniversary was observed on the evening of April 26, 1820. Oration by John Skeele and poem by Dr. Samuel Emerson. Supper at Washington Hall. The society was incorporated by the Legislature of Maine at the January session, 1821. The third anniversary was observed on the sixteenth of April of that year. Oration by Edward E. Bourne, poem by John Skeele. At the close of the exercises at the church the members, accompanied by the choir (all ladies), marched in procession to Jefferds's Hotel, where they partook of an excellent supper. Its fourth anniversary was observed on the twentieth of April, 1822. George B. Moody, orator; William B. Sewall, poet. The literary exercises were supplemented by a supper at Washington Hall. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court was one of its invited guests. On its fifth anniversary, April 28, 1823, Israel W. Bourne was orator and George B. Moody, poet.

These were the last public exercises of this society. Regular meetings at its rooms were continued for two or three years afterward, but the number of attendants gradually diminished, and it was determined by the few remaining members to disband and to sell at auction the volumes of magazines belonging to the association. It was not in consequence of any discontent or lack of interest that this society closed its affairs, but because the larger part of the active members had removed from town to other places, to engage in business pursuits, and there appeared to be a lack of needed material wherewith to supply the vacancies that had been created.

## LYCEUMS.

Several young men belonging in this village held a meeting on the first day of August, 1829, and organized a Debating Club. Meetings were held weekly at the office of Increase S. Kimball, Esq., in a room which now forms a part of that occupied by the Good Templars. Its members were much interested and discussions on the several questions brought before them were spirited and gave evidence of careful preparation. As their room was quite small, the wish was generally expressed that the society would hold its meetings in a larger place, in order that spectators might be admitted. A proposition by the society was well received that it should relinquish its informal organization, and that a "Lyceum" should be formed which would be broader in its character, the lectures and discussions before which should be free to all. At a meeting held on the evening of December 30, 1829, five gentlemen engaged to deliver one lecture each during the winter.

The first lecture, introductory to the course and explanatory of the nature and design of lyceums, was delivered by Rev. George W. Wells, at Union Hall, on the evening of January 6, 1830. The second in the course was by Dr. William S. Emerson, on Electricity, January thirteenth; the third, January twentieth, by Hugh McCulloch, Jr., on Physical Geography; the fourth, February eighth, by Edward E. Bourne, on the Early History of Kennebunk. This lecture embraced nearly all the facts relating to the early history of our town which are given in "The History of Wells and Kennebunk," published in 1875. The fifth and concluding lecture of this course was given February seventeenth, subject Astronomy, by Henry A. Jones, who for two or three years was a successful and very popular teacher of schools in this village. At the conclusion of Mr. Jones's lecture a constitution was reported which was adopted. "The association shall be called the 'Kennebunk Lyceum,' and its object shall be to promote the diffusion of useful knowledge." Any adult could become a member by the annual payment of fifty cents and signing the constitution, and minors by the payment of twenty-five cents and also signing the constitution, the latter not entitled to vote. This constitution was signed by sixty-one adults and nine minors. The society was then organized by the election of the several officers required by the constitution.

The first lecture before the Kennebunk Lyceum was delivered on the evening of March 3, 1830, by Daniel Remich; subject, "His-



tory of the Art of Printing." The second in the course was by Rev. Beriah Green, March tenth, on the "Condition of the Indians and the relations existing between them and the United States." March eighteenth William S. Emerson gave a lecture on "The Anatomy of the Human Skeleton." During the remainder of the course, which closed June ninth, lectures were delivered by Rev. G. W. Wells, E. E. Bourne, Dr. Burleigh Smart, Increase S. Kimball, Hugh McCulloch, Jr., and Rev. Beriah Green.

One of Mr. Wells's lectures was on "The rearing of silk worms and the cultivation of the mulberry." Mr. Wells took much interest in this subject and endeavored to create a general enthusiasm in reference to it among our farmers especially. Several citizens planted the mulberry and raised silk worms, but did not meet with that degree of success which encouraged them to continue their experiments.

A board of managers was chosen at a business meeting in September, 1830, the members of which were re-elected annually, excepting in cases where vacancies occurred by the removal of the incumbents from town. Joseph Dane, James K. Remich, Edward E. Bourne, Rev. George W. Wells, Dr. Burleigh Smart, Rev. Joseph Fuller (successor to Rev. Beriah Green), William Lord, Elisha Chadbourne, Adam McCulloch and Levi P. Hillard comprised this board. Standing committees were appointed on Chemistry, Agriculture, Mechanic Arts and Manufactures, Political Economy, Town Improvements, Education, Lyceums and Domestic Economy. These committees reported questions for discussion.

The meetings of the Lyceum were resumed on the thirtieth of September, on which evening a lecture was delivered by Hugh McCulloch, Jr. The question, "Ought capital punishment for crime to be abolished?" was discussed on the evening of the sixth of October, and Messrs. Henry A. Jones, Dr. S. Emerson, E. E. Bourne, G. W. Wells, H. McCulloch, Jr., and Daniel Remich participated in the debate. William S. Emerson, who had held the offices of secretary and treasurer since the organization of the Lyceum, resigned, in consequence of leaving town, and Daniel Remich was elected to fill the vacancy.

In 1832 a select committee on Pauperism—James K. Remich, John Low and Joseph Dane—was appointed, by whom a report was made, the discussion of which occupied several evenings and parts of evenings, and resulted in bringing the matter before the town

and in the abolishing of the old system of "bidding off the poor" and the adoption of the present method of supporting them.

Meetings of this association were continued during the fall and winter months of each succeeding year until 1838, when they were relinquished from the same causes that led to the dissolution of the Literary and Moral Society. For ten years this Lyceum was a very flourishing and useful institution. It was sustained almost entirely by home talent, and it may be truthfully said that the lectures and discussions before it were, as a whole, exceedingly creditable to the participants and to the town. Rev. Mr. Wells was an active and efficient member, and Rev. Mr. Green, of the Orthodox Society, while he was a resident here, was untiring in his efforts to render the exercises popular and interesting. They were not unaided; young men, the middle-aged and "those with silvery locks" were willing and efficient contributors to the public exercises. All our citizens were deeply interested in its prosperity; the halls where its meetings were held were always crowded. It was common ground; political or sectarian feeling was unknown, and that jostling for precedence,—an attribute of the weak-minded, low and vulgar,—was never exhibited. Initiatory steps were taken, the second year of its existence, for the formation of a library. Its beginning was small. We give its catalogue: Nicholson's Encyclopedia, twelve volumes, presented by Joseph Storer; Collections of the American Antiquarian Society, presented by Daniel L. Hatch; Library of Entertaining Knowledge, twenty-two volumes, viz.: Pursuit of Knowledge, four volumes, Vegetable Substances, two volumes, Insect Architecture, two volumes, New Zealanders, Insect Transformations, Menageries, one volume each, Architecture of Birds, two volumes, Quadrupeds, three volumes, Historical Parallels, two volumes, Paris and its Historical Scenes, two volumes, Practical Naturalist and Culture of Silk, one volume each; Mechanic's Magazine, monthly, and Scientific Tracts. Among the additions in after years were the Republication of the Four English Quarterlies, American Quarterly Review and the Franklin Institute, monthly. The works here enumerated would, doubtless, be regarded as "dry reading" by the majority of the public at this day; but such a collection of reading matter was an appropriate auxiliary in the promotion of the work for which this association was instituted. A very good philosophical apparatus was also purchased.

The larger part of the lectures were on scientific subjects, but they were attentively listened to by large audiences, composed of

both sexes of all ages, from youths of fifteen to adults who had passed threescore and ten. The library was not neglected; its bound volumes and periodicals were carefully read by the younger as well as the older members of the community. When the society was dissolved the apparatus (such of it as was unbroken) was presented by the subscribers to Union Academy, and we think the library was similarly disposed of, excepting a few valuable volumes which were returned to the donors. The meetings of the association were free to all who desired to attend, and the expenses attending them were defrayed by individual subscriptions. We think that it may be correctly stated that the "Elizabethan period" in Kennebunk was between the years 1810 and 1840.

A number of gentlemen who were desirous that a course of lectures should be delivered in this village, during the winter of 1851-52, met on the twenty-eighth of November, 1851, and seventeen pledged themselves to defray the expenses of the course; that is, in case the expenses exceeded the amount received from the sale of tickets, they would make up the deficiency. At a subsequent meeting of the guarantors a board of managers was chosen, viz.: Daniel Remich, William B. Sewall, Rev. Joshua A. Swan, Joseph Dane, Jr., and Edward W. Morton. (Mr. Remich declined to act as chairman, Mr. Sewall being the oldest member of the board, an arrangement, however, to which Mr. Sewall would not consent.) The organization was completed by the choice of Joseph Dane, Jr., as treasurer and E. W. Morton as secretary.

The lecturers and their subjects during the season were as follows: Rev. Mr. Chickering, of Portland, "Switzerland"; Rev. Mr. Stone, of Boston, "Kossuth"; Rev. Mr. Harrington, of Lawrence; Rev. Mr. Ware, of Cambridge, "The Fine Arts"; two lectures by Rev. Mr. Bowman, of Kennebunkport, "Cowper and his Poems" and "The Beautiful"; Rev. Mr. Carruthers, of Portland, also delivered two lectures, "Russia" and "Tartar Tribes"; Rev. Mr. Fisk, of Bath, "Mental Greatness"; Rev. Mr. Hopkins, of Saco; Rev. Mr. Judd, of Augusta, "The Beautiful"; Rev. Dr. Gannet, of Boston, "Conversation."

The second course, 1852-53, was conducted by the same board of managers. Mr. Dane, as treasurer, and Dr. Morton, as secretary, resigned their respective offices, and the vacancies were filled by the choice of Mr. Remich as treasurer and Edward W. Lord as secretary.



The lecturers and their subjects were as follows: Rev. Mr. Judd, of Augusta, "Law of Love"; Mr. Jewett, of Portland, two lectures, "Ancient Shipbuilding" and "Modern Shipbuilding"; Rev. J. W. Abbott, of Brunswick, "Scenes in the Life of Louis Fourteenth"; Mr. Cowes, of Portsmouth, "The Tide"; Rev. R. C. Waterston, of Boston, "Scotland"; Rev. Mr. Willetts, of Philadelphia, "The Man for the Times"; Rev. Mr. McIntire, two, "Astronomy"; Edward W. Lord, "Patriotism"; Edward E. Bourne, Jr., "Benedict Arnold"; Rev. T. Starr King, of Boston, "Substance and Show"; Rev. Mr. Holland, of Boston, "Palestine"; Professor Hoyt, of Exeter, "Education"; Rev. Mr. Wilcox, "The Providence of God as Manifested in the Progress of the Human Race," and Rev. Mr. Woodbury, of Concord, N. H., "Luther."

There were two or three courses of lectures between the years 1838 and 1851, conducted on the same plan as the foregoing, and it is believed under nearly the same management, but we think that the records are not now to be found, and we are consequently unable to furnish any detailed account of them. The able and popular lecturer, Henry Giles, was here, and there were two or three lectures on Chemistry by Professor King. Since 1853 there have been, frequently, courses of lectures, but we think no formal organization for conducting them, and a less number have constituted a course. Recently the course of lectures has been superseded by one of entertainments, divided about equally between concerts and literatures.

#### TEMPERANCE.

The *Gazette* of February 4, 1826, contained an editorial severely condemning the indiscriminate sale of ardent spirits. Mr. Remich, while returning from his office labors, which frequently detained him until a late hour, often met persons staggering toward their dwelling places, and it was not uncommon, on the morning following such an event, to hear of the abuse of wives or families by these inebriated individuals, or that their habits were causing destitution and suffering. He felt it to be a duty to call public attention to this monstrous evil, which was evidently on the increase in the village and in neighboring towns. This astounding article—which we think was the first attack, editorially, upon the dramshops and intemperance ever made by any paper in the State—was followed, in the two successive issues, by editorials and communications equally pointed and pungent. These caused great excitement. A few openly approved. Many, privately, acknowledged their truthfulness, but

questioned the expediency of a crusade that must inevitably cause much bitterness of feeling and which it was idle to suppose could result in the reformation desired, and not a few gave utterance to sentiments of disapproval and disgust, accompanied, occasionally, with threats of personal violence. Mr. Remich was not at all affected by the latter. His well-known great physical strength and fearlessness were ample guarantees of his perfect immunity from any attempt to punish him by the application of brute force.

The immediate effects of these exposures were: The loss of about one hundred and fifty subscribers to the *Gazette*,<sup>1</sup> who were citizens of Kennebunk, Lyman, Kennebunkport and Wells; the closing, at an earlier hour, of the shops of those who felt that they were the persons against whom these shafts were aimed; the seeking, by the victims of dissipation, of some other way than the main street by which to reach their abodes; the free discussion and calm consideration of the subject by the thoughtful and judicious, which resulted in the hearty endorsement of the warfare that had been initiated, and, by the more resolute, in a determination to give their aid, actively, to a cause so deserving; and the often repeated, earnest and tearful thanks to the editor, by wives and sons and daughters, for the good work in which he was engaged.

In order to fully appreciate the circumstances under which this warfare was commenced, we must consider the then condition of things in regard to the use of and traffic in intoxicants. The public tacitly approved of the sale of them; the use of them, as a beverage, was nearly universal, a very small percentage of the citizens being total abstinent; to deal in them was not regarded as at all disreputable; they were retailed in every store and public house in town, but it should be added that a large percentage of this number always peremptorily refused to sell to immoderate drinkers.

It appears by the treasurer's ledger that the first money received by the town treasurer was paid him, September 11, 1821, for twenty-one licenses to retail ardent spirits, which amounted to the sum of one hundred and twenty-six dollars, and between the above-named date and January, 1824, fifteen additional licenses were granted,

<sup>1</sup> The *Essex Gazette*, published by Abijah W. Thayer, in Haverhill, Mass., was the first political paper that ever came out in advocacy of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors, and the second of any kind, either in America or in the world. This was in 1821. "Such was the opposition to the movement that in a short time he lost about four hundred subscribers. Mr. Thayer removed to Portland in 1822, where, until the autumn of 1826, he was connected with the *Independent Statesman*, at first as editor, and subsequently as editor and proprietor." He returned to Haverhill in 1826.

making a total of thirty-six individuals and firms in Kennebunk who were licensed as retailers; three of these were innholders, one keeper of a victualing cellar, twenty-one storekeepers in the village, six storekeepers at the Landing, and five small groceries outside the village.

The *Gazette* relaxed none of its energy in keeping the subject before the people, by the publication of appropriate original and selected matter. Within a brief space of time after the movement under consideration was initiated, several retailers relinquished the traffic, and the use of ardent spirits as a beverage was considerably diminished; the good work was quietly, but persistently, prosecuted, and with encouraging success. In 1829 a temperance society was formed.

At this time the pauper tax became a subject of general complaint. It had been gradually increasing for several years. The municipal officers were severely censured, but the closest examination proved that they had performed the duties devolving upon them in reference to this matter, as well as in all other particulars, faithfully and with due regard to the best interests of the town. The number of paupers was very large in proportion to its population. A committee was appointed at a town meeting held in April, 1830, who were instructed to ascertain the number of persons assisted by the town, their condition, habits, etc. In due time this committee made a report, embodying the material facts obtained in the course of a careful and patient examination of the subject, and these facts conclusively proved that three-fourths of the pauperism in the village could be traced to intemperance. This aroused public attention. As a matter of policy, and over and above all as a matter intimately connected with the best interests of society, its morals, prosperity and rational enjoyment, the temperance cause should receive the earnest support of every good citizen. Several retailers of ardent spirits abandoned the traffic; many who had been moderate drinkers became total abstinent. Meetings for the discussion of the subject were held in the village and in the schoolhouses in the several school districts, all of which were well attended and undeniably productive of good results, but a few of the retailers held on to the traffic and resorted to every means in their power to render abortive the work of the advocates of temperance, whose private characters were bitterly assailed and to whom the most offensive terms were applied. Small politicians improved the opportunity to misrepresent facts and excite prejudices with the view of gaining



votes from the slaves to a morbid appetite. The most intense excitement prevailed for two or three years. The subject of pauperism and its causes was brought before the Lyceum, previously alluded to, and a committee (James K. Remich, Joseph Dane and John Low) was appointed to consider the question and report. This duty they performed. After the report had been read, several gentlemen spoke earnestly and well in defense of the propositions of the committee, but the speech of the evening was made by Judge William A. Hayes, or "Father Hayes" as he was called, of South Berwick, who happened to be present, and who, after complimenting the committee for the able manner in which they had treated the question, proceeded to advocate its principles and recommendations in a masterly manner. His remarks were listened to with the deepest interest and were afterward frequently referred to as exceedingly appropriate and impressive. The consideration of the report occupied the Lyceum two or three evenings. The question of license or no license was brought before the town, and an amusing medley it produced. Lifelong Democrats and lifelong Republicans were seen working together zealously in opposition to licenses, and Republicans and Democrats, until now unyielding antagonists at the polls, were clasping hands and unitedly laboring in favor of licenses. Party politics were forgotten in this contest.

"Uncle Ben," as he was familiarly called, was among the most noted "topers" in town. He was very respectably connected, kind-hearted, upright and, excepting his great failing, a man of good sense and sound judgment. He was famous as a gunner, fisher and trapper; a man of "infinite jest, of most excellent fancy"; he was the father of a family of boys and girls of whom he was proud, and who were worthy the pride of any father; still he could not resist the tempter. No one knew better or felt more keenly the degradation resulting from the habit to which he was addicted than "Uncle Ben"; no one could describe more feelingly than he would the evils attendant upon a drunkard's life. Occasionally he would abandon the habit for a short time, but the sight or smell of spirits would lead him at once to indulge his appetite to excess. When the license question was under consideration at this meeting—an excited, turbulent meeting—a motion was made and carried to "divide the house"; all in favor of licensing to be seated in the pews on the left-hand side (as you enter) of the broad aisle of the church in which the town meetings were then held, all opposed to be seated on the right-hand side. "Uncle Ben" very deliberately

took his seat in a pew on the right. From the left came a dozen voices: "'Uncle Ben,' 'Uncle Ben,' you are on the wrong side; come over here." With a sad countenance, but with a firm tone, "Uncle Ben" answered: "I know I am a poor, miserable old drunkard, but I am a man of principle. I shall stay here."

For awhile it seemed doubtful which side would prevail, so nearly equally divided were the combatants, but at the close of the struggle a vote was passed, by a small majority, April 1, 1833, instructing the selectmen not to grant licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors to be drank in the stores or places of business of those by whom it might be sold, and requesting the selectmen not to grant licenses for the sale of liquors in any quantity. The selectmen obeyed the instruction and recommendation of their constituents. The beneficial results of this action were soon apparent: spirituous liquors were still sold, but clandestinely, and their use was considerably diminished; the virtue of sobriety, with its attendant blessings, gained ground among the population and the traffic in stimulants was becoming discreditable.

"Zion's Hill," an appellation almost universally given to a small portion of our village by residents of the town, and by which it is somewhat extensively known abroad, obtained its title during the evening of the day on which these votes were passed. A strong advocate of licensing was bewailing the defeat of the measure and denouncing the *Gazette*—the proprietor of which lived on this territory and three-fourths of the heads of families who dwelt there were fast friends of the temperance cause—and wound up his harangue as follows: "We should have no trouble at all about this liquor business if it wasn't for them d——d aristocrats on Zion's Hill." This title, then first given to the locality (more than fifty years ago), has steadily adhered to it, at first as a joke, then as a convenient term by which to designate this part of the village; and later it has, by long-continued use, become an established name, very few making an inquiry or indulging a thought respecting its origin.

At the May term of the Court of County Commissioners, held at Alfred (1833), Capt. Charles Bradbury, of Kennebunkport, Chairman, Ayer and Boyd, Associates, four petitions were presented, by persons belonging to this town, praying the Court to grant a license for the sale of ardent spirits to each of them. The Court took up one of these petitions, wherein it was alleged that the petitioner had applied to the selectmen for a license to sell spirits to be drank away from the store, "which request had been improperly refused." The

evidence adduced and the arguments of counsel, in behalf of petitioner and respondents, occupied nearly a whole day. After the hearing Chairman Bradbury gave his opinion at considerable length, which opinion was fully concurred in by his associates. It was that the petition should be dismissed, and in consequence of this decision the other petitions were withdrawn.

In the winter of 1833 James K. Remich issued proposals for publishing, at Kennebunk, a large quarto monthly paper to be called "The Friend," to be devoted to the advocacy of the cause of temperance. The proposition was well received by friends of the cause throughout the county, and by the first of May a sufficient number of subscribers had been received to warrant its publication, when notice was given that the first number would be issued in the course of two or three weeks. A temperance paper—whether under the auspices of the State Temperance Society or not we are unable to say, but we think that it was—had already been started at Wiscasset, but was not liberally patronized, and it was believed by its supporters that its publication must be abandoned if "The Friend" was issued. It was represented to Mr. Remich that two temperance papers could not be sustained in the State, and that one established at Wiscasset, near the center of population, would be productive of greater good to the cause than at Kennebunk, near the western boundary of the State. Under these circumstances Mr. Remich conferred with the leading temperance men in the county, expressing his belief that it would be better to unite in the support of the Wiscasset paper. They differed with him in opinion, but finally reluctantly withdrew their objections, and on the eighth of June notice was given that "The Friend" would not be published, for awhile at least. A few of the gentlemen who had engaged to contribute to the columns of "The Friend" consented to write occasionally for the Wiscasset paper, and quite a number of those who had subscribed for the former became patrons of the last named. The larger part of the temperance workers in the county were never fully satisfied with this arrangement and did not give a hearty support to the paper at Wiscasset. Mr. Remich, in later years, admitted that he made a great mistake in this matter, that in this instance his "zeal outran his discretion." "The Friend" would have had a large and very able corps of contributors, while its subscription list afforded a guarantee that it would have been strongly supported. It was not expected, of course, that it would prove a "money-making concern." We think that the Wiscasset paper was



discontinued in April, 1834, or that its place of publication was then changed to Augusta, where it was published monthly, with the title of the "Maine Temperance Herald," by the executive committee of the State Society for several years.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Temperance Society, December 28, 1835, upon motion of Rev. Mr. Wells, it was voted that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. James K. Remich to see whether an arrangement could be made to circulate in pamphlet form the matter contained in the Temperance Department of the *Kennebunk Gazette*. Mr. Wells and Mr. William M. Bryant were chosen.

A report made to the society by its secretary at its annual meeting in 1837 embraced a full history of its progress from the date of its foundation to the date of the report, which was published by a vote of the society. Its length precludes us from copying it.

The Washingtonian movement commenced in this town early in the autumn of 1841. The society was composed of those who had been addicted to the immoderate use of ardent spirits. The "Kennebunk Washington Total Abstinence Society" held its first public meeting in the meeting-house of the First Parish, Sunday evening, October 17, 1841, when an address was made by Mr. Bartimus, of Boston, who was followed by several members in brief remarks, during which they depicted the evils resulting from intemperance, proving the soundness of their statements by narrations of their experiences as individuals. This organization was very active and it is believed was productive of great good in this town during the years 1841 and '42. Mr. Bartimus was a faithful laborer in the cause, and by personal interviews and public addresses influenced many to abandon the use of intoxicants and to become consistent members of the society which was formed through his exertions.

"Father Hayes" succeeded Mr. Bartimus. He spoke in each of the schoolhouses in town, outside the village, and in the churches of the First and Second Parishes, explaining and advocating the cause for the advancement of which he was laboring. He was always accompanied by members of the society, who strengthened his declarations by a portrayal of the wrongs that they had inflicted upon themselves by the intemperate use of alcoholic liquors, and the happiness, prosperity and respectability that had rewarded them for a strict adherence to temperance. Great good had then already been accomplished by the old society, which had been in the field several years and had thoroughly

aroused the public to a thoughtful consideration of the subject. The class of persons to whom the Washingtonians particularly addressed themselves was not, therefore, without full knowledge of the efforts that they were making to diminish the use and repress the sale of the "liquid poison." They had, however, looked upon these efforts with aversion, regarding them as an attempt to "deprive men of their liberties" and as an unauthorized interference with their "rights"; but curiosity was excited to hear the stories told by persons "who had been in the gutter," and while listening to them they *felt* that they were true. Hearts were touched, hopes were enkindled, resolutions were formed, and new lives, new homes and higher and nobler aims were opened to them. A large number joined the Washingtonians; some were unfaithful, but the larger part were true to their pledges and became valuable members of the community.

This society celebrated Washington's birthday anniversary in 1842 by a supper, etc., at the Town Hall. Capt. James Hubbard presided, assisted by several vice presidents. Many members of the old organization were present and took an active part in the exercises. A sumptuous collation, furnished under the supervision of Capt. Samuel Littlefield, was served, of which one hundred and seventy ladies and gentlemen partook. A series of fourteen regular toasts, which had been prepared by Daniel Remich, was read by him. "Father Hayes" responded to the second, Rev. Mr. Edes to the fifth, E. E. Bourne to the eighth, and Samuel Emerson to the eleventh. Several temperance odes and songs were sung during the evening by Israel Kimball, of Wells, in his usual elegant style. The evening was spent rationally and delightfully. There were sterling jokes, brilliant flashes of wit, high-toned moral sentiments, interesting and pertinent anecdotes, merry peals of laughter, loud and repeated cheers, all calculated to impart innocent hilarity to the occasion and to render it "a feast of reason and a flow of soul."

At the annual town meeting, April 2, 1842, the temperance ticket for town officers prevailed by a handsome majority. Resolutions were adopted instructing the selectmen to prosecute all violations of the license laws in this town which might come to their knowledge, and also to carry on the several suits that had been already commenced for such violations.

Frequent meetings under the auspices of this society were held in different parts of the town throughout the year and the winter of 1843, which were largely attended and with good results. The twenty-second of February of that year was celebrated, in Union

Hall, in like manner as was this anniversary the previous year. Mr. Barnard, of Boston, and Rev. Mr. Burr, of Portland, delivered stirring addresses. After Mr. Hayes had left town, in March, 1842, the old and new societies worked together, for a time zealously, but there was a gradual relaxation of their efforts.

The next organization devoted to the advancement of the temperance reform was the "Sons and Daughters of Temperance," a secret society, which was conducted with earnestness, good judgment and gratifying success for several years, when it was succeeded by the "Good Templars," also a secret society, but embracing more elements of popularity than its immediate predecessor. This has been, from its commencement to the present time, a flourishing and effective association. The Good Templars Lodge in the village, called "Salus Lodge, No. 156," was organized June 8, 1866. "Earnest Lodge, No. 55," of Good Templars is also a flourishing society, with its headquarters at the Eastern Depot Village, in West Kennebunk. It was organized March 15, 1876.

The old society, the pioneer in the good work, retired from the contest years ago. It had battled against fearful odds, it had been engaged in political strife, it had been opposed by all the bitter hostility that could be engendered by perverted appetites, by cupidity unrestrained by moral sentiments. Its members had been the objects of bitter hatred, of petty persecutions and of obloquy; they had stemmed the torrent of adverse circumstances, working and warring with strong hearts and unflinching action. The society had accomplished its mission and its record is a noble one.



## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE FIRE SOCIETY.

The first volume of the Records of the Society commences thus: "Kennebunk, Monday, 10th February, 1812. The inhabitants of this place having met several times to consult upon the formation of a Fire Society, without carrying anything into effect, again met this evening in Webster's Hall, by adjournment, farther to consider the necessary steps to be taken to organize said Society." Dr. Jacob Fisher was chosen moderator, Robert Waterston, secretary, and Nathaniel Frost, Joseph Dane and Robert Waterston were appointed to form a "code of By-Laws and to report thereon." The meeting was then adjourned to the following Monday evening, when the committee appointed to prepare by-laws made a report. It was voted that they go into operation on the first of the next June and seventy-five copies were ordered to be printed. The society was organized by the choice of Joseph Thomas, president, Isaac C. Pray, secretary, Timothy Frost, treasurer, Michael Wise, collector, and John Low, Nathaniel Jefferds and Robert Waterston, committee of inspection.

The by-laws made it the duty of the committee of inspection to examine the engine and its apparatus and to report any deficiencies discovered to the captain thereof, and if their suggestions were not seasonably attended to, then to report to the society at its next annual meeting or at a special meeting. They also provided that the society have a watchword, to be altered at their pleasure, and any member not giving the countersign when demanded by the president, at a meeting or at a fire, should pay a fine of twenty-five cents. The only reference in the records to this provision appears in the proceedings of the annual meeting in 1833, when it was voted that "'Yard I' be the watchword for the present year."

The society, at its organization, numbered thirty-four members.

At the second annual meeting it was voted to purchase a drag-rope for the fire hook. In 1815 the treasurer was authorized to purchase a fire hook, complete, for the use of the society, and in 1817 the treasurer was requested to cause a shed to be built in order that the fire hook might be kept under cover.

The first society supper was in 1817, in compliance with a vote adopted the preceding year, a custom which has been "honored in the observance" from that date until the present time, with only two or three exceptions.

In 1819 the treasurer was requested to furnish a breastplate and rope traces with hooks for the purpose of harnessing a horse to the engine.

In 1821 the society appointed a committee of one to take care of the engine, and also elected a captain and a lieutenant to take charge thereof in time of fire, and voted that the members be under the control of these officers and that the society meet on the first Monday of each month in the year at the engine house "one hour by the sun in the afternoon." The monthly meetings were dispensed with in 1824, and for a number of years afterward the members were required to be present only on the first Mondays in May and September at five P. M. In 1831 Elisha Chadbourne, the captain, by appointment by and under instructions from the Fire Society, notifies the members of said society that for the purpose of getting out and working the engine they have been divided into two classes, — those residing on the eastern side of Scotchman's Brook constituting the first class, and those on the western side of said brook the second class, — said classes to meet alternately on the first Monday of April and the five following months, commencing with the first class, which is notified to meet at the engine house the fourth of April at half-past five in the afternoon.

A second lieutenant was added to the list of officers of the engine in 1829. These appointments were made and meetings were held inasmuch as there was no engine company. It appears, however, that a company was formed the second of July, 1832, at which date new "Rules and Regulations" were adopted, Article I of which reads as follows: "This Company shall be known by the name of the Kennebunk Engine Company, No. 1." The society voted at its annual meeting in 1833 to appoint a committee of three to examine the engine once a month and in case the company should be disbanded or should fail to keep the engine in good repair, said committee were empowered to keep it in order and present their bill to this society for payment. The same year new editions of the revised by-laws were printed; these were again revised in 1839 and in 1857, in which years new editions were issued.

In 1821 the society for the first time nominated candidates for fire wardens and in 1830 furnished them with "staffs."

In 1835 a subscription was made by members and other citizens amounting to sixty-six dollars and forty-seven cents, which was expended for repairing the engine and purchasing necessary fire apparatus. Again in 1849 the sum of sixty-five dollars and fifty cents was raised for the same purpose, in like manner, and in 1852 the sum of six hundred and thirty-two dollars was also raised by subscription for the purchase of a new engine and needed apparatus; this was called the Washington. In 1880 it was considered expedient to purchase another engine, one that would do more efficient work than the old Washington; this was done at a cost of one thousand dollars. Five hundred feet of cable hose with couplings was also purchased, costing three hundred and seventy-five dollars, which, together with an additional sum of two hundred and twenty-five dollars expended in a good secondhand hose carriage and in building a tower on the south end of the engine house, made a total of sixteen hundred dollars.

The Safeguard has proved to be an excellent machine, adapted to our wants as regards simplicity, excellence of materials and manufacture and the ease with which it can be worked.

In 1847 it was voted that ladies be admitted to the supper at the next meeting. In 1867 a similar vote was passed and at the annual meeting the following year nineteen ladies were present by invitation of members, a practice which has been continued with increasing favor to the present time.

In looking over its records, which, by the way, appear generally to have been carefully and accurately made, no marked or particularly interesting incidents are found in the history of this society. It has pursued its course, not always in perfect harmony, but with as little wrangle or jar as could be expected, and less by far than usually attends the management of associations of a similar character. Its meetings, with few exceptions, have been exceedingly pleasant, the questions coming up for consideration rarely exciting lively or acrimonious debate, while the measures adopted have usually been carried without a division. It is apparent that at no time has there been a lack of interest in the great object of the association; existing evils or wants have been brought to its notice promptly, and measures to remedy the one or supply the other have been taken without delay and with perfect unanimity.

Several votes of the society, adopted at different times, have been quoted to show that the fire apparatus has always been considered its special charge; when no engine company existed it has



been considered its duty to take the necessary steps for the preservation of all the apparatus, as well as to make ample provision for the working of the engine should fires occur, and when a company did exist, to appoint a committee of one or more to inspect the apparatus and to report, annually, in reference to its condition.

The Kennebunk Fire Society has not been an inoperative association. Whether all has been accomplished that might have been through its agency we are not prepared to affirm, but that it has been an instrument of great good does not admit of a doubt. Its purpose is one in which all are interested. The owner or occupant of buildings, the owner of personal property liable to be destroyed by fire, and the taxpayers are benefited by such an organization. The cost of equipment is not large when it is considered that the by-laws do not require members to furnish themselves with a single article which is not absolutely essential to efficient service in case of fire. The few trifling fines to which members are subject for non-appearance or deficiency in equipment add to the fund in the treasurer's hands, which is always carefully expended, under authority of votes of the society, for material of acknowledged utility and necessity.

Devoid of the semblance even of distinction as regards party, sect or wealth, it is eminently a popular association. Among the members of this society since its organization have always been found the most prominent of the citizens of our town for intelligence, wealth and worth, and at all times an earnest desire has been manifested to increase its numerical strength and to promote its respectability and its usefulness. An organization of this description, in a village like ours, has a tendency to impress strangers favorably respecting it. Persons seeking a place in which to invest capital in manufactures or trade would, most assuredly, give the preference, other things being equal, to that which maintained the best fire department, especially if the indications were that it was sustained with cheerful and united effort and whole-souled energy. In this matter of membership of our society, however, throwing aside all the inducements which increased business and prosperity might offer, there is one simple reason, overreaching and outweighing any other that can be adduced, which it seems should be conclusive, and that is duty. By becoming a member of this association one confers a benefit on the community. He volunteers to provide safeguards against conflagrations arising from carelessness or indifference, and he furnishes apparatus by which, in case of fire, every

required facility is at hand for its extinguishment. It is true that there is no show, no pomp, no parade about all this and one's only reward is the consciousness of having done something for the benefit of those around him. And, after all, is it not the quiet, unostentatious performance of duty to one's self and to his neighbors that constitutes the truly valuable citizen and the worthy man? There are but a very few among the millions who can win golden opinions by acts of rare munificence or earn a widespread and enviable reputation by fearless bravery or by powerful eloquence which sways the multitude, while duty, faithfully performed at all times and in all matters, the most minute as well as the most momentous, is the keystone of earthly goodness and true greatness.

And so, although associations like ours may appear insignificant and of little moment, they are, nevertheless, of incalculable importance. Indeed, it would be difficult to estimate the extent and value of their labors in preventing and extinguishing fires or the amount of suffering, loss, penury and even vice which is saved through their instrumentality.

## CHAPTER XIV.

GENERAL LAFAYETTE—PRESIDENT JACKSON—YORK LODGE OF FREE  
AND ACCEPTED MASONS—MILITARY REVIEWS—FOURTH OF JULY  
CELEBRATIONS.

Lafayette first landed on our shores April 19, 1777, at Georgetown, S. C. Shortly afterward he addressed a note to the President of Congress, asking permission to serve in the Continental Army without pay and as a volunteer. His offer was accepted, and, in the language of a resolution adopted by that body, "in consideration of his zeal, illustrious family and connections," he was commissioned, by its order, as a major general in the Army of the United States. The story of his relinquishment of all the enjoyments of a happy home, of his sacrifice of personal comfort and of property, as well as of his invaluable services in behalf of our struggling people "battling for freedom," of his assistance on the field and in obtaining material aid from the French Government, is too well known to need more than a bare mention here. Lafayette was born September 6, 1757, and was married at the age of seventeen to a young lady of large fortune, which, added to his own, brought him an annual income of thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars. He joined our army a few weeks before he reached the age of twenty; the English officers called him the "stripling Frenchman." He died in 1834 in his seventy-seventh year.

General Lafayette accepted an invitation by Congress to visit the United States, as the nation's guest, in 1824. Declining the proposal of our government to send a national vessel for his conveyance, he came passenger in a merchantman, the ship *Cadmus*, which arrived at New York on the fifteenth day of August, after a pleasant voyage of thirty-one days from Havre, and was accompanied by his son, George Washington Lafayette, Mr. Auguste Le Vasseur and one servant. He was received in a manner befitting a sincerely grateful people, who were welcoming a national guest eminently deserving the highest honors in their power to bestow. Of his companions in arms whom he left, after the battle of Yorktown, forty-three years before, and who greeted him with heartfelt cor-



diality on his brief visit to this country in 1784,—mainly to embrace and to commune with his beloved Washington, to revisit his old battlefield and to witness the progress of our people,—few were left; but the sons and daughters who received from their sires the bequest of liberty were here, with hearts filled with gratitude, to pay to him the respect richly due to our nation's benefactor. His journey through the country was a "perfect ovation." Not only were the demonstrations of esteem and affection everywhere showered upon him exceedingly gratifying to the nation's guest, but he must have seen, with feelings of pride and gratulation, the evidences of faithful and successful stewardship shown in the prosperity and happiness of those who had entered upon the inheritance won through wise counsels, brave armies and timely aid, which, under a beneficent Providence, had brought to a prosperous issue the patriotic labors of those who risked their all in support of the principles of the great Declaration.

Friday, the twenty-fifth of June, 1825, was a holiday in Kennebunk. The male portion of our townsfolk were astir at an early hour, for the purpose of giving the finishing touches to the street decorations and of making preparations for the cavalcade—the former erected and the latter to be formed—in honor of the illustrious Lafayette, who was to be the guest of our citizens for a few hours in the afternoon of that day. He reached Wells about noon and was escorted from its western to its eastern boundary by a large number of the gentlemen of that town, the procession passing under two beautiful arches in the village which had been thrown across the street from Curtis's store on the southerly side to the stores of Littlefield and of Morrell on the northerly side. At the western boundary of Kennebunk the nation's guest was received by a large cavalcade of its citizens—Horace Porter, chief marshal—and many gentlemen from the neighboring towns led by General Allen, of Sanford. When Lafayette and his escort were about a mile from the village, which he reached at one o'clock in the afternoon, a national salute was fired under the direction of Maj. James Osborn, of the Artillery, and Capt. Samuel Littlefield, of the Militia, and the bell sent forth its peal of welcome. The cavalcade proceeded as far as the meeting-house, greeted with hurrahs and other demonstrations of respect and joyousness from the long line of strangers and citizens, of both sexes and of all ages, which had been formed on both sides of the street from the bridge to the point just named, thus affording an opportunity for all to see the honored visitor. At the meeting-house the

cavalcade wheeled and returned as far as Towle's Hotel, where Dr. Samuel Emerson, chairman of the committee of arrangements, addressed Lafayette as follows:—

“By the appointment of my fellow villagers and at their request I have the honor to bid General Lafayette a most cordial welcome, and to assure him that, though our climate is the coldest in the United States, our hearts are warm with gratitude for the distinguished services rendered our beloved country in her struggle for independence.

“You have gone the rounds of the encampment of Liberty, you have seen the omnipotence of her power and resources, and your heart has exulted in the fruits of your pious labors. Every true American has traveled with you, in imagination, and felt an honest pride in the admiration you have expressed.

“This little village, with thousands more, has literally been redeemed from the forest since you fought by the side of Father Washington; and the children of those brave soldiers whose bleeding feet your generosity supplied with shoes, when the only wealth the country possessed was her courage, are now presenting to your view unbounded wealth, unequalled respect and unrivaled welcome.

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“But, General, your adopted Country trembles to trust you in the power of tyrants; would to Heaven you could tarry among us till the summons comes to call you to the realms of celestial Liberty! God grant that your life may be prolonged to the very verge of sublunary enjoyment; that those who survive may deposit your remains in the same soil with Washington, Greene, Lincoln, Knox, and the whole radiant galaxy of your compatriots, whose sacred memory, like your own, can never perish. This, sir, is the united sentiment of every one who so cordially echoes the universal pæan, ‘Welcome, Lafayette.’”

General Lafayette responded as follows:—

“I am highly gratified to be so affectionately welcomed by the people of Kennebunk, and by you, my dear sir, to have that welcome expressed in the most kind and flattering terms. I thank you. I thank all my friends for their sympathy in the delight I have felt to find in these extensive and patriotic rounds the happy results of independence, freedom and self-government. While I had the honor to be persecuted by every government of Europe, without one single exception, I equally gloried in the thought of my preserving

the approbation and of my living in the truly Republican hearts of the American people.

"Now, sir, after this happy visit to every one of the United States, I will not only rejoice at the witnessed salvation on this extensive empire, at the already effected salvation of the American hemisphere, I will bless the anticipated salvation of mankind, to whom the first example has been given of a true and complete national liberty. Accept, my dear sir, and all of you who so eagerly, so friendlily throng around us, be pleased to accept my most affectionate and respectful acknowledgments."

At the close of these ceremonies (which occurred near the entrance on the southerly side of the house) the General was conducted to the parlor, where all who desired were introduced to him; a large number availed themselves of this opportunity, among whom were many Revolutionary worthies. The General was conducted thence to the dining hall, where he and his suite, together with many of our citizens and of the visitors from the neighboring towns, partook of an excellent dinner prepared under the supervision of the landlady, Mrs. Nathaniel M. Towle. "The table and hall were beautifully decorated, and the table was bountifully supplied with choice food, embracing not only the substantials but all the rarities of the season." After dinner a number of toasts were given, the first by Doctor Emerson, the chairman, which was complimentary to the nation's guest, who responded by expressing his grateful acknowledgments and giving the following toast:—

"The town of Kennebunk, where the first tree was felled on the day when the first gun of American and universal liberty was fired at Lexington; may the glorious date be to flourishing Kennebunk a pledge of everlasting and ever-increasing republican prosperity and happiness."

[General Lafayette had been informed that the first tree was felled on the site of the hotel on the nineteenth of April, 1775; but he misunderstood, and gained the idea that the first tree felled in the township was on that day.]

Just before leaving the hall, General Lafayette being requested to give a volunteer toast said: "I rise from this chair, so kindly, so beautifully ornamented, to propose to you 'The Kennebunk Ladies.'" [The chair on which he sat had been very tastefully ornamented with flowers, a wreath of which formed an arch over his head.]



The after-dinner exercises having closed, General Lafayette and his suite, by invitation, made a short call at the residence of Joseph Storer, accompanied by a few of the officers of the day. Mrs. Storer had collected all the ladies of the village to pay their respects to the beloved guest. Here, after having been introduced to the ladies present, he was seated at the head of a table most beautifully ornamented and laden with delicacies which were arranged in a manner that elicited general admiration and of which he partook sparingly.

At half-past four o'clock General Lafayette and his suite left town for Saco, escorted by many of the citizens as far as the western boundary of Biddeford, where he was received by a numerous cavalcade of gentlemen belonging to that town and Saco.

The decorations on the streets and the bridge were very fine. The first was an arch—the handiwork of gentlemen and ladies at the Landing—thrown across the street near Towle's Hotel, tastefully covered with flags, flowers and evergreens, and conspicuously inscribed, "Washington—Lafayette." The second, third and fourth were arches thrown across the bridge and inscribed "Brandywine"; the arches and bridge were beautifully decorated with small trees of various kinds and evergreens. The fifth was a double arch from the "Phœnix building" (occupying the present site of the bank) to one of the trees on the opposite side of the street, with the inscription, facing west, "The Boy's Escaped" [referring to Lafayette's escape from the British in the affair at Barren Hill, Penn., May 18, 1778]; on the reverse, "Yorktown."

The day was drawing to a close when the distinguished guest and the cavalcade in his honor passed the eastern boundary of the town. The weather had been all that could be desired, the expectations of those who had crowded the streets had been fully realized, and at sundown the visitors were directing their steps homeward and the citizens had returned to their dwelling places, all gratified with the events of the day, which may be regarded as one of the most memorable in the annals of the town.

There were, however, a few exceptions. Professional pickpockets were in the crowd, who succeeded in purloining a pocketbook from Capt. Elijah Bettes containing about one thousand dollars in notes and drafts, a pocketbook from Mr. Samuel Lord containing five hundred dollars in notes of hand and bank bills, a pocketbook from Judge Clark containing forty-five dollars in bank bills and valuable papers; and a visitor had eight dollars in bank bills drawn from

his pocketbook. The suspicious conduct of three individuals who were loitering about the village on the twenty-fourth led to the belief that they were the criminals. Col. Enoch Hardy and three other gentlemen belonging to the village started in pursuit of the suspected persons. In Portland information was obtained that strangers answering the description given of these had been there, but had left town a few hours before the inquiries were made. Ascertaining that they had taken the road leading to Saco, the gentlemen in pursuit were soon on the track of the rogues, and overtaking them in Kennebunk caused them to be arrested. They were examined before a justice's court, ordered to recognize for their appearance at the fall term of the Supreme Court, and failing to obtain sureties were committed to Alfred jail. Their names were Lewis Martin, aged about forty-five years, Louis Smith, about twenty-four, and Gardiner Hayford, still younger. A large portion of the money stolen from our citizens was recovered. Martin was tried, for taking a pocketbook from Jonas Clark, at the September term of the Supreme Judicial Court, held at Alfred, found guilty, and sentenced to twenty days' solitary confinement and five years' hard labor in the State prison; Smith turned State's evidence and was permitted to go without punishment, and Hayford, who was indicted for receiving stolen money and harboring a felon, was acquitted. It appeared that these rogues had followed Lafayette from Boston to Portland and had pursued their criminal avocations very successfully in almost every town through which he passed.

General Lafayette left New York in September for his native shores in the then new United States frigate *Brandywine*.

President Jackson visited New England in June, 1833, proposing at the outset to extend his tour as far eastward as Portland. The Governor of Maine ordered that, on his arrival at the western boundary of the State, he should be received by a company of cavalry from the first division of the Maine Militia, by whom he should be escorted as far as Kennebunk, where he should be received under a salute fired by the Kennebunk Artillery Company, and where the first division escort should be relieved by a company from the fifth division, by whom he should be escorted to Portland. A committee was raised, at a meeting of the citizens of Kennebunk, to invite the President, in their behalf, to tarry as long in our village as circumstances would permit; it was also voted, at the same meeting, that a cavalcade of citizens, on horseback, should receive the

President at Cole's Corner. The above-named committee was informed, on the thirtieth of June, in a letter from Concord, N. H., that in consequence of fatigue and ill health the President had determined to return, from that place, to the seat of government on the following day. He did not, therefore, visit Maine. He reached Washington on the morning of the Fourth of July much improved in health.

#### YORK LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

The York Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was consecrated in this town, and its officers installed in ample and ancient form, on Thursday, August 25, 1814, by the Most Worthy Grand Master, Benjamin Russell (editor of the *Boston Centinel*), assisted by a deputation from the Most Worthy Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The committee of arrangements "tender to the inhabitants of Kennebunk their grateful acknowledgments for their many civilities and polite attentions previous to and at their consecration and installation"; to the choir of musicians for excellent music and to the ladies who assisted in decorating the lodge room and dining room special thanks were given. After dinner the following toast was received from Worthy Grand Master Russell, which was gladly greeted: "The Town of Wells, its Citizens, the Reverend Clergy, the Ladies and the Masons; may her prosperity equal the patriotism of the first, the piety of the second, the beauty of the third and the fidelity of the fourth." We have looked in vain for a remark in reference to the oration. It is not even alluded to. Did "Brother Greenleaf" embrace in his oration some strictures on the doctrinal views of the members of the Second Parish which he afterward, by another method, took occasion to reprehend? The oration was duly noticed, however, on the records of the lodge.

St. John's Day, June 24, 1827, was celebrated in an appropriate manner by York Lodge. A procession was formed at Towle's Hotel, at eleven A. M., which proceeded to the meeting-house, where prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Fletcher and an oration pronounced by Dr. Samuel Emerson. The various exercises at the church having been completed, the procession was re-formed and returned to the hotel, where an excellent dinner had been provided, to which the large company who sat down to the tables did ample justice. The attendance of Masons and citizens was very large; the oration "was written in a neat, comprehensive and elegant style," and all the proceedings of the day were of a most gratifying character.



## MILITARY REVIEWS.

The annual military review and inspection of the fourth regiment of the first brigade and first division of the Maine Militia took place on the old "training field," nearly opposite the road leading to the saw-mill at the Eastern Depot, the twenty-third of September, 1826. The various evolutions of the soldiers were creditably performed, under the inspection of Brig. Gen. John W. Bodwell and Col. Jesse L. Smith. Public interest in these reviews was now evidently on the wane. Although the day was fine, the number of spectators was not large, and those who were present manifested little of the old-time enthusiasm that marked such occasions.

The *Gazette* notices the annual military review which occurred on the twenty-eighth of September, 1827, and closes the article as follows: "Fortunately for the training-going folks the day was clear and delightful and no accidents happened. A few knock-downs and not a few tumble-downs took place,—nothing wonderful, however, for general muster."

The fourth regiment paraded for review at the "old training field" on the first day of October, 1830. The brigadier general being absent, Col. A. F. Symands and Maj. William Bourne, both of Wells, were the chief officers of the day. The *Gazette* says of the companies belonging to the village: "The elegant appearance and superior discipline of the Kennebunk Artillery Company, commanded by Captain Kingsbury, and the uniform dress and fine conduct of the Militia Company, under the command of Capt. B. Littlefield, were subjects of general remark and were alike honorable to the officers and the privates." Through the exertions of Colonel Symands and Major Bourne, the customary demoralizing scenes witnessed at these reviews were greatly diminished in comparison with former years. There were not more than five tents and no gambling apparatus was to be seen on the ground; but few females were present; intoxicating drinks were not openly vended. Instances of intoxication were frequent, but very much less in number than on similar occasions in time past. The troops were dismissed at an early hour in the afternoon, and the field and its vicinity were soon thereafter cleared of tents, spectators and troops.

On the seventh of October, 1831, Major General Waterman reviewed the troops comprising the fourth regiment at the parade ground in Wells, between Little River and Cole's Corner. The

Artillery Company and one other failed to appear, both companies being destitute of officers. The spectators were not numerous.

#### FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS.

A large number of the ladies and gentlemen of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport celebrated the Fourth of July, 1820, by a sail on board of a coasting vessel that had been nicely fitted up for the occasion. "After enjoying a few hours on old Neptune's bosom, the company landed on Kennebunk Point (Lord's Point), where they partook of a sumptuous dinner." Every event of the day was calculated to afford gratification to the members of the party.

The Fourth of July, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, was celebrated by the citizens of our town in a spirited and appropriate manner. The bell was rung, a national salute of thirteen guns was fired at sunrise and noon and of twenty-four guns at sunset. A large procession, preceded by a company of twenty-four boys and the same number of girls wearing badges on which were inscribed the names of the several States of the Union, proceeded from Major Frost's Hotel to the meeting-house, where the following programme was rendered: Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Fletcher; Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Joseph Dane; Oration, by William S. Emerson, which was spoken of by the *Gazette* as "elegant, chaste and classical"; an original hymn, an ode, etc. At the close of the exercises the procession again formed, returning to Frost's Hotel, where an excellent dinner was provided by the Major, of which about one hundred and twenty of the citizens of Kennebunk and guests from neighboring towns partook. The after-dinner toasts were many and appropriate. We append a few.

The tenth regular toast was as follows: "The ship Congress, last spoken in the latitude of Washington, engaged in a war of words, with the flag nailed to the mast."

We select a few from the volunteer sentiments:

By Hugh McCulloch. "The citizens of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells; may the harmony and friendship which has so long existed between them be as perpetual as the streams that separate them."

By Robert Waterston, of Boston. "The tree of Liberty, planted by the Pilgrims and more deeply rooted by the Declaration of Independence; may its branches encircle the world."

By Joseph Smith, of Dover, N. H. "The citizens of the flourishing village of Kennebunk; if they are not happy it must be their own fault."

By John Ross. "The farmers of Maine; he who puts his hand to the plow should never look back."

By Doctor Fisher. "A soldier—honored in war, neglected in peace." Doctor Fisher was seated at the head of the second table and Major Cousens, a veteran of the Revolution, between eighty and ninety years of age, was at his right. When the Doctor was called on for a toast he desired the Major to rise, then putting his right hand on the Major's hoary head he said: "The sentiment of my toast is not applicable to the present occasion, but it will generally apply to all countries and all times."

The *Gazette* of the twenty-eighth of June, 1828, contained the following: "'Coming events cast their shadows before.' Notice is hereby given that on the 4th of July good refreshments will be furnished on Gooch's Beach for the accommodation of those who may visit that agreeable resort. Pleasure boats will also be provided for those who wish to make an excursion on the water." We think that this is the first time that such an excursion was publicly advertised.

#### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

The citizens of Kennebunk resolved to celebrate in an appropriate manner the one hundredth anniversary of our nation's birth. It had been fifty years since there had been, in this town, a citizens' celebration of this eventful day. In pursuance of this resolution, preliminary meetings were held for the consideration of the subject, which resulted in the selection of a large committee, composed of gentlemen from each of the several school districts into which the town is divided, to which was assigned the work of making all the necessary arrangements. This committee labored zealously, in perfect harmony and with a satisfactory result. The people throughout the town contributed liberally and cheerfully in aid of the object, and a sum was readily raised sufficiently large to warrant the issuing of a programme, broad and creditable, embracing all the customary out-of-door displays and such indoor exercises as the proper observance of this important anniversary seemed to require.

The bells were rung thirty minutes morning, noon and at sunset, and salutes of thirteen guns were fired while they were ringing.



Flags were displayed from the liberty poles, from public buildings and from a number of private buildings.

In the Town Hall, during the day, were showcases containing many relics of the eighteenth century, among which were the "Baxter Bible," so-called, which was taken by a party of Indians, in 1726, from the dwelling-house of Philip Durrell, in Kennebunkport, whose daughter married a Mr. Baxter, and who with her husband and children formed a part of the Durrell family; it had been carefully preserved; a copy of the "Bay Psalm Book," the first book of importance printed in this country (about 1640); a chafing dish taken from Burgoyne's tent, at Saratoga, in 1777; a commission signed by Governor Pownall, of Massachusetts, in 1759, conferring on the appointee the office of second lieutenant in a company of foot in Colonel Willard's regiment; valuation lists made by the assessors of Wells during and prior to the Revolution, and other less valuable relics of "ye olden time."

Joseph Dane was president of the day, by whom Joseph Titcomb was appointed an assistant.

At half-past nine in the morning the exercises commenced in the Town Hall, which was "filled to overflowing." Mr. Titcomb presided over the assemblage. The overflow, which, however, was not large, repaired to the First Parish Church, where the exercises that had taken place in the Town Hall were repeated. Mr. Dane presided over the gathering here. The exercises in the hall and church were as follows: Music; Opening Address, by the presiding officer; Prayer, by Rev. Walter E. Darling; Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Miss Ida E. Wormwood; Historical Address, by Daniel Remich; Short Addresses — by Rev. Edmund Worth, "Reminiscences of the Revolution, the Causes that led to it"; by Rev. Charles C. Vinal, "Brief Sketches of the Churches in Kennebunk from 1749 to 1820"; by Andrew Walker, "Kennebunk Village as it was in 1790." Miss Elizabeth W. Hatch composed the words of a hymn that was sung on this occasion.

At the close of the exercises in the hall and church, a Centennial Tree was planted in the vacant space opposite the First Parish Church, when a few pertinent remarks were made by Joseph Titcomb. The tree was later enclosed with stone posts and an iron rail.

About noon a procession was formed, near the Town Hall, under the direction of Col. James M. Stone, chief marshal of the day, consisting of the band, the officers of the town, Mousam Lodge,

Independent Order of Odd Fellows, school children and citizens, which proceeded to the field known in bygone years as "Barnard's Pasture," where a large tent had been put up, furnished with dinner tables, seats, etc., where an excellent picnic collation had been provided. (This field, dating from the celebration, has been called "Centennial Hill." It has since been built upon.)

A gentle breeze from the southwest prevailed during the forenoon, rendering the temperature bland and enjoyable; after noon, however, the breeze freshened and at intervals was uncomfortably strong. The dinner had been disposed of and preparations were making for post prandial speeches, when bellying canvas and creaking poles led the inmates of the tent to look around uneasily. The suspense was momentary; another gust prostrated a part of the structure and produced a general stampede of those prepared to give utterance to patriotic words and of those prepared to listen to them. No one was hurt, and a merry company left the "tented field" from which they had been so summarily dismissed by Old Boreas.

We wish that we could here close the account of the day's proceedings, but a sad tale remains to be told. While engaged in firing the noon salute one of the gunners, Jesse H. Webster, was instantly killed by the premature discharge of the cannon. Webster was a native of this town, son of Charles H. Webster, and he left a widow and five children. He was forty years of age at the time of his death. His father, mother, wife and one or more of his children were in the village when the accident occurred. The deep sorrow of the afflicted ones on hearing of their bereavement cannot be imagined. Many among the spectators wept with the stricken ones; all were sincere sympathizers. The day's exercises were completed according to the programme, but this distressing occurrence cast a gloom over the remainder of the proceedings, as it could not well be eradicated from the minds of the citizens, causing universally a depression of spirits incompatible with boisterous hilarity or hearty enjoyment.

Webster was a faithful soldier in our Civil War. The Grand Army Post of this town honored his memory by calling it "Webster Post" and "Webster Relief Corps," a ladies' association connected with the Post.

## CHAPTER XV.

### SCHOOLS.

On the eleventh day of November, 1647, Governor Winthrop, of Massachusetts, gave his official sanction to a measure the worth of which no man of that day could better estimate, though no estimate of that day could approach a just conception of its beneficent issues, as later time has revealed them. Not a word of such legislation as the following must be withheld from the reader. Since the seventeenth year of Massachusetts, no child of hers has been able to say that to him poverty has closed the book of knowledge or the way to honor.

“It being one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, as in former times by keeping them in an unknown tongue, so in these latter times by persuading from the use of tongues, that so at least the true sense and meaning of the original might be clouded by false glasses of saint-seeming deceivers; that learning may not be buried in the grave of our fathers in the church and commonwealth, the Lord assisting our endeavors,—

“It is therefore ordered [by the General Court] that every township in this jurisdiction, after the Lord hath increased them to the number of fifty householders, shall then forthwith appoint one within their town to teach all such children as shall resort to him to write and read, whose wages shall be paid either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the inhabitants in general, by way of supply, as the major part of those that order the prudentials of the town shall appoint; provided those that send their children be not oppressed by paying much more than they can have them taught for in other towns. And it is further ordered that when any town shall increase to the number of one hundred families or householders, they shall set up a grammar school, the master thereof being able to instruct youth so far as they may be fitted for the University; provided, that if any town neglect the performance hereof above one



year, that every such town shall pay five pounds to the next school till they shall perform this order."<sup>1</sup>

The foregoing extract, we feel assured, will be read with interest, and will be considered a fitting introduction to the continuation of our history of the public schools in this town. We have already spoken of the difficulties that embarrassed the early settlers on the east side of Little River while endeavoring to obtain the educational advantages for their children to which they were justly entitled and from which they were a long time debarred.

If correctly recorded by the clerk, the town passed a unique vote, on the fifteenth of March, 1762, in regard to the schools, which were to be kept "two years near the center of population, then one year in Kennebunk Parish, then one year at Maryland, and then one year at Ogunquit, Harriseeket and the Branch." It was, however, entirely disregarded, and the annual appropriation for schools from 1762 to 1767 was divided as it had been in previous years. In 1767 the Second Parish was allowed to draw from the treasury one-fifth of the school money raised by the town for the ensuing year; twelve pounds were voted to it for 1769-70, and for 1770-71 its proportion of sixty pounds according to the rates paid thereby.

There was no schoolhouse in Kennebunk until 1770. Prior to that date schools were kept in private houses, and probably for several years later, in neighborhoods remote from the seaboard, before their population would warrant the formation of districts or the erection of schoolhouses for the better accommodation of their children. In 1741 a school was kept for four months at the dwelling-house of James Wakefield, at the Landing, and for ten years thereafter at the same place for a longer or shorter period each year. From 1741 to 1748 the schools were in charge of different teachers, of whose fitness for the position and of whose success in their vocation we have no knowledge. In 1748 Rev. Mr. Little was employed as teacher, and we have no doubt but that he performed his duties intelligently and faithfully; he taught there for several years. In 1752, having built a house (afterward owned and occupied by John T. Brown), he kept the school in one of its rooms for two or three years. When Joseph Storer removed from Wells to Kennebunk, in

<sup>1</sup> Palfrey's History of New England, 2d volume, pages 262 and 263. Palfrey remarks that "the measure is all the more impressive for having originated in a general voluntary movement of the people in their several settlements." In 1645 Winthrop writes: "Divers free schools were erected, as at Roxbury." In 1644 the inhabitants of Dedham, Mass., declared, by a unanimous vote, their willingness and readiness to provide for the maintenance of a free school, and for this purpose made an appropriation of some lands and of twenty pounds annually.

1757, and engaged extensively, for the time, in the manufacture of lumber and in other business, this increased the population in the vicinity of the mills and gave to this part of the village an importance it had not hitherto enjoyed. The Kimball neighborhood was also increasing in numbers and in its industries. It was claimed that the schools should be kept in this section of the town a part of the time at least. From 1758 to 1764 they were held in the Kimball neighborhood, in the carpenter's shop of Edmund Currier, which stood near the site of N. W. Wiggin's house and well accommodated the then most populous parts of the town.

For the eight years succeeding 1757 we rely wholly upon tradition for all the information we have respecting the schools,—such indefinite statements, by elderly people, as "I heard my grandfather or grandmother say," etc. We think, however, that the narrative in the text is very nearly correct.

In 1764 the Alewife road first attained the dignity of being "the road on which the school is kept." It was kept there continuously until 1770. That the school was held in a structure built of logs appears to be undisputed, but reports respecting its location and finish do not so well harmonize. Judge Bourne—doubtless on the authority of a tradition that appeared to be entitled to full credit—locates it "just above the house of Storer" (it was no more than an eighth of a mile above it) and describes it as about six feet high and open at the gable ends, and also states that "the only way of entering was by climbing up on a stile at the end and jumping down into the house." This leaves us in some perplexity as to the manner in which the pupils got out of the place; they jumped down six feet to get in and it would seem that there was no stile on the inside, so that their egress must have been accomplished by some "tall climbing" or by a resort to the "boosting process." An aged citizen, who had his information from Reuben Hatch, who built a house near the site of the present dwelling-house of Ivory Lord in 1760 or '61, stated to the author that this log building was a sheep pen erected by Hatch and built in the style common in the early days of the settlement, the entrance to which was through a small opening at one end, about three feet square, that to gain admittance it was necessary to step over two logs, about nine inches each in diameter. Blocks of wood probably were utilized for benches. And thus it was that while the sheep were enjoying their summer vacation their home was occupied by juveniles in pursuit of useful knowledge.

After the organization of the Second Parish, in 1750, the selectmen of Wells made it the custodian of its proportion of the school money, with full power to expend it in such manner as might be deemed most advisable, in fact, giving to the parish the entire control of the schools within its precinct. All matters affecting this important trust were, therefore, debated and determined at the parish meetings, and its assessors, or such committee or committees as it might appoint for the purpose, were authorized to carry out all votes in reference to this subject which were, from time to time, adopted at these meetings. In pursuance of the authority thus delegated to it, the Second Parish, not long after its organization, divided its territory into four school districts: No. 1, from Joseph Storer's house to Towne's Bridge; No. 2, all below, between the rivers to the sea; No. 3, "Alwive village"; No. 4, from Storer's house, on both sides of the Mousam, to the sea.

It appears from its records that the parish manifested commendable interest in the schools and that all its measures respecting them evinced sound discretion and an earnest desire that the education of their children should be especially cared for. Under the authority delegated to it by the selectmen, the territory had been divided into parochial districts, as above stated, several years before the town had taken any decided action to this end, and had made such provision in regard to the distribution of the school money as would, as far as practicable, secure equal advantages to all the children. In April, 1779, and again in April, 1780, the town voted that the selectmen divide the town into school districts and that they appoint a committee in each district to engage a suitable schoolmaster and receive the proportion of the money belonging to each district, such committee to be accountable for the expenditure thereof. The performance of the duties assigned to the selectmen by this vote was long delayed, about thirty years.

When we call to mind the sparseness of the population and the limited pecuniary means of that population a century ago, as well as the many little trials and perplexities to which they must necessarily have been subjected, and then glance at the abundant means and countless facilities enjoyed by our people to-day for the support and successful operation of institutions of learning, it must be admitted that our fathers were in no respect behind the present generation in solicitude for the educational welfare of the young or



in readiness liberally to contribute in aid of an object which they felt to be deserving of their fostering care. "They did what they could."

In 1790 the town elected a "committee for visiting schools," consisting of John Wheelwright, Nathaniel Wells, Benjamin Brown, Nathaniel Cousens, Benjamin Titcomb and John Storer. This is the first record we find of the election of such a committee by the town.

Considerably more than one hundred years ago the parish erected the first schoolhouse within its territorial limits. It was located a few rods east of James Hubbard's (now John Ward's) dwelling-house and opposite his field, very near the spot where stands the guide board that shows the way to Boothby's Beach. We presume that children from all parts of the parish were entitled to seats within its walls, although its position favors the supposition that it was designed to accommodate the children of residents in the village and on the seaboard, hence the title by which it was known for a generation, "the Mousam Schoolhouse." By "the village" we mean the inhabitants then living (1770) on the territory now known as the village and as the Bartlett's Mills neighborhood; it was about midway between these and the inhabitants at the Landing (on the Kennebunk River) and the Larrabee settlement (on the Mousam). A more eligible site for the building could not, at the time, have been selected. It stood there many years, too many it would seem, if we take into consideration the harmony of the vicinage. Several years before the close of the eighteenth century the Landing district had so increased in population that it was found necessary to erect a schoolhouse there, which stood twenty rods southwest of the county road and on the east side of the road to the Port by way of Titcomb's and Towne's. There had been, in the meantime, quite an increase of settlers on the territory destined to become the principal village in the town, so that the school near Hubbard's was no longer centrally situated, and it was proposed to move it nearer to the church (the Unitarian Church now standing). The proposition, however, did not prove acceptable to the majority of those in whom the power was vested. We have no record that furnishes the details of the controversy that grew out of these discordant views, the first volume of the records of the fifth school district having been destroyed, it is alleged, in the fire by which the buildings on the corner of Main and Fletcher Streets were consumed in 1866. We do know that in 1797 several gentlemen, viz.,

Samuel Emerson, Jacob Fisher, Jonas Clark, Joseph Moody, Joseph Barnard and Major Jefferds, purchased of Joseph Storer, for the sum of ten dollars, the small lot of land on which "the old schoolhouse" stands and which that structure very nearly covers, adjoining the meeting-house lot; that thereupon they erected the building for "school purposes"; that about the time of these proceedings the parish schoolhouse was moved from the "corner" to a lot on Saco road, a few rods east of the meeting-house and about opposite the site of the Methodist Church; that not long after this the then old schoolhouse was sold and removed<sup>1</sup> and the new building became and has to this day continued to be a "district schoolhouse," referred to in legal documents as "the schoolhouse in the parish yard."

The old building has passed through many changes, so that now nothing remains of the original structure excepting the frame and the boarding. Persons who attended school there from 1800 to 1820 have described its interior, at that remote period, as arranged for two schoolrooms, say one-fourth of it partitioned for a "woman's or summer school," with a door at the western end for the ingress and egress of pupils and others, and furnished with common benches; to this room and its privileges children from four to ten years of age were admitted. The larger part, where was kept the "man's or winter school," was finished in the old style,—a fireplace of huge dimensions, a brick hearth covering the entire space between the chimney and the lower tier of seats, the teacher's desk, high and roomy, reached by steps, on the northern side, so located as to enable that personage to enjoy a full and unobstructed view of every part of his realm. On this was kept a small box containing "copper-plate copies" for the larger scholars, by one of whom it was daily "passed round" to the members of his class, so that each one could select a copy which he or she regarded as desirable, and which copy, under penalty of "discipline," was to be returned to the box, untorn and unblotted, as soon as the writing exercises were completed; here, too, when not in use, were the writing books of the less advanced scholars. At the proper hour the owners were expected to go to the desk for their books, in which they expected to find a page ruled, a newly written copy and a newly made or mended quill pen; these were also to be punctually

<sup>1</sup>This building was moved to or near the lot now occupied by the dwelling-house of William F. Simpson and became the property and the home of the widow, Tabitha Hubbard.

returned. On the front of the desk was posted an alphabetical list of the boys belonging to the school, one of whom, as his turn came, was expected to build the fire in the morning and care for it through the day; a like list of the girls was also posted, three or four of whom were expected, as their turns came, to unite in sweeping and dusting the schoolroom Saturday afternoon. On the northern side of the chimney was a large closet, used for the double purpose of storing wood and of shutting up, temporarily, scholars that were regarded as refractory, or for some other cause considered deserving the dark regimen; over this closet was a flooring or platform on which were a bench and desk that would accommodate at least half a dozen pupils; these, however, were used only when every other part of the room was crowded, and then by the larger scholars. On this platform, once in two weeks (the bench and desk having been moved back), the boys were required to declaim. "You'd scarce expect one of my age," "Pity the sorrows of a poor old man," "My name is Norvall, on the Grampian hills," "My voice is still for war. Gods! Can a Roman Senate long debate," and many other selections in poetry and prose, pathetic, patriotic, impassioned, etc., were spoken from this rostrum with more or less propriety and power. On the floor, which was so laid that there was a gradual ascent from the hearth to the eastern end of the room, were old-style benches and desks, with narrow aisles between, sufficient in number to seat comfortably seventy pupils, but which, with the addition of boards from seat to seat across the aisles and putting the smaller children into snug quarters, were frequently made to furnish accommodations, so styled, for from ninety to one hundred scholars, from ten to twenty-one years of age. It could not be expected that under these circumstances much progress in learning would be made. We think that the larger boys, apprentices and others, who could not attend more than a month or two or three months in the year, and whose chief studies were writing and arithmetic, received the greater share of the teacher's attention. The instructor of the winter school frequently kept one or two terms during the warm season, "in the man's part," but this did not benefit a large number of the children, whose parents could not or would not pay their tuition, and who, between the demands of the larger pupils in the winter and their exclusion, on account of age, from the schools in the summer, were slightly benefited by the scanty educational privileges within their reach. This unfavorable state of things led to the maintenance, by a number of parents, of a



private school throughout the year, which was taught in Washington Hall, in the Frost building (near the Grant house), and temporarily in the district schoolhouse when not in use. Other rooms in the village were also improved, at different times, by John Skeele, Aaron Greene, Stephen Farley, Edwin Piper and others. This movement not only greatly benefited the children of its patrons, but largely increased the efficiency of the public school by lessening the number of its pupils. Improvements were gradually made in the old schoolhouse. The closet with the overhead platform was removed, the immense chimney replaced by one of smaller dimensions, the room was heated by a large box stove instead of an open fireplace, the broad brick hearth was taken up and a wooden floor substituted, the platform and teacher's desk were taken away; all these changes afforded space for a more commodious wood room, for dressing rooms, a teacher's desk more in accordance with the style of the day and two additional tiers of seats. Then came the removal of the partition, the closing up of the western entrance, the leveling of the floor, the enlargement of the windows and a ventilator. Afterward a term of the man's school was kept in the summer, and the woman's school was kept in a small building in the rear of the "Cobby store," and a mixed school on the west side of the river, in a small building at the corner of York and Friend Streets, which now forms a part of a very neat dwelling-house that stands there.

We are unable to state the precise date when the first schoolhouse at the Landing was removed or torn down. It was *the* schoolhouse in 1820 and perhaps a few years later. The brick schoolhouse, opposite the shipyards, had been erected when the old one was abandoned. Its interior was remodeled somewhat and considerably improved in 1860. In 1887 it was found to be dilapidated and "behind the times" in many particulars, and it was taken down. A new wooden building, neat in its outside appearance, its interior finished and furnished in modern style, was erected several feet in the rear of the site of that which had been demolished.

In 1792 the Landing district was divided, "Lake Brook" being the divisional line. It is probable that the "Pine district," or No. 3, was organized about this date, and a schoolhouse built in the grove of pines on the east side of the road, a short distance below Butland's. In 1861 this building was abandoned and a new one was erected—a very neat and convenient structure—on an eligible site, a short distance below that of the old one.

There is no record or tradition that affords ground for belief that there was a schoolhouse in the Port district until about 1820. There must have been schools there at a much earlier date, which were probably kept in rooms hired for the purpose. The first schoolhouse had been used as such on the Kennebunk side of the river; it was originally designed for a fish house, for which purpose it was used a while, and then was metamorphosed into a house appropriated to the instruction of youth. It was purchased by the Port district, or No. 1, drawn across the bridge and located near the site of John A. Emery's store. It was again moved, between the years 1851 and '54, to the spot where it now stands. It was enlarged in 1856 so as to accommodate two schools at the same time, and the old part was furnished with a sufficient number of Shattuck's desks and chairs to accommodate fifty-six pupils. The schools in this district were graded in 1862—three grades, advanced, intermediate and primary—a much needed improvement.

District No. 6 was established in 1803 and it is probable that the first schoolhouse was erected and partially finished the same year. It stood near where Mrs. Lancy Littlefield's dwelling-house stands. For some reason, now lost to the memory of the oldest inhabitant, this building was sold a few years later and purchased by the Misses Hill. It was moved to Fletcher Street and subsequently became the property of John Mitchell. The district built another schoolhouse, about half a mile northeast of the location of the first, on the road from Ross's to the Shackley place. For several years summer and winter schools were kept there. The district was small, the scholars few in number and the school terms very short. We have listened to readings and recitations in that room, however, which would be creditable to any school of the same grade in town or city, and it would be hard to find, even at this day, teachers better qualified to teach mixed schools than the Misses Larrabee, who were among the instructors employed here. The population of the district gradually diminished, and the school money appropriated for it would pay for only one short term annually. Later an arrangement was made by which the children in this district attended the schools in No. 5, the compensation of the latter being the amount of money annually apportioned to the former. At the annual town meeting in 1871 the district was united with No. 5. The old No. 6 schoolhouse was shortly thereafter sold and removed, the town receiving neither schoolhouse nor lot from the district.

In April, 1804, the town by vote set off certain inhabitants within the boundaries named therein, in the Second Parish, as a "separate school district, by the name of the Center Kennebunk School District." The present District No. 5 includes all territory designated in this vote.

It was voted in October, 1805, that "Cole's School District, so-called, shall extend from the Doctor's Bridge,<sup>1</sup> so-called, to John Clark's,<sup>2</sup> to Col. Henry Hart's and to Nathan Wells's." In May, 1810, the petition of Nathan, Joseph and William Wells, Thomas Fernald, John and Samuel Bragdon, Abner, William and William Wormwood, Jr., praying to be set off and formed into a separate school district, was granted. Accordingly "District No. 4" was organized and a year or two later a schoolhouse was built on the corner of the highway and the lane then leading by Wormwood's to the river. In 1856 the district very wisely decided to build a new schoolhouse, which was well located, a short distance seaward from the site of the old one, sufficiently large to accommodate twenty-four scholars and provided with Shattuck's furniture. The population of this district has changed materially within the last thirty years. The number of children within its bounds between the ages of four and twenty-one years has become so small that the amount of school money to which, by law, it was entitled has been only sufficient to support a school a few weeks in the year. The district still maintains its organization, hoping for "better things in time to come," but the children therein attend the village schools, and for compensation the district annually pays to the agent of No. 5 the amount of school money apportioned to it by the municipal officers of the town.

In April, 1811, the selectmen reported that they had divided the First and Second Parishes of the town into school districts. Their report was read, amended somewhat, and its further consideration postponed until a later date. At the annual meeting in April, 1812, it was not taken up for want of time. At an adjourned meeting held the following month it was discussed and after several amendments it was accepted and adopted. The First Parish was divided into sixteen districts. The Second Parish was divided into ten districts. The first, second, third and fourth did not materially differ, territorially, from the present arrangement; the fifth and sixth were made up chiefly of the territory included in the fifth or

<sup>1</sup>Near Wells "Corner" and the residence of the late Dr. Joseph Gilman.

<sup>2</sup>The site of the summer residence of George O. Lord, ex-president of the Boston & Maine Railroad.



village district before the annexation of the sixth; the present ninth (West Kennebunk) and eleventh (Cat Mousam) districts formed a single district, while the eighth, ninth and tenth were very nearly within the limits now occupied by the sixth (before its annexation to the fifth), the seventh and the eighth. When the division of the parish (under this action of the town) had been completed, the custodianship of the schools was no longer vested in its officers. When this division was made and the organization of the several districts perfected we are unable to state, nor have we any means of ascertaining the precise dates when schoolhouses were erected in the several districts.

District No. 10 (Plains) was not established as a separate district until 1812, when it was called No. 6 in the selectmen's report. It is probable that the schoolhouse which stood on the east side of the road, a short distance north of the late Joshua Treadwell's residence, was built about that time. This schoolhouse was taken down in 1859 and a new one erected, on the west side of the road, which is still standing.

The districts now known as No. 11 and No. 12 appear to have been embraced within the limits of the fifth, or village, in the division made by the selectmen in 1812. In 1822, when the town was again divided into districts, these districts were established, No. 11 being known as "Cat Mousam" and No. 12 as "Day's." We cannot learn when the old schoolhouse, on the western bank of the river, was erected; perhaps not before 1822. There must have been a school in this district before that date, which was probably kept in a private house. The old schoolhouse was burned about 1849, and that now standing, on a different location, was erected a year or two later. Probably the schoolhouse in Day's District was built prior to 1825. Nos. 11 and 12 are adjoining districts. The agents frequently so arranged the commencement and close of the school terms in their respective districts as to enable the children to attend both schools. It was a judicious arrangement, mutually beneficial by considerably enhancing the educational privileges of those residing therein. Years ago the only obstacle to the union of these districts appeared to be the lack of a road which would shorten the distance between their territorial limits. That road has since been built.

District No. 9 (West Kennebunk) was established about 1850. The children on the territory comprised within its limits had up to this time attended school on the west side of the river (now No. 11). The first schoolhouse was no more than an ordinary structure,

which, a few years after it had been built, was found to be inadequate to the wants of the district, which was fast increasing in population and business prosperity. It was made to "answer its purpose," however, until 1873, when a new house was erected. The interior was divided into two rooms, designed to accommodate the advanced and primary schools respectively, which were well finished and furnished; its exterior is very neat. The site is a fine one, affording an ample playground, a valuable adjunct, and giving to the building a somewhat imposing appearance.

#### UNION ACADEMY.

An act of incorporation was granted to the trustees of Union Academy, in Kennebunk, by the Maine Legislature of 1834. This seminary was under the auspices of the Calvinist Baptist Associations of York and Cumberland Counties, but the citizens of Kennebunk, of all religious denominations, cheerfully and liberally contributed toward the erection of the building and the furnishing of apparatus needed for the successful operation of the school. The academy building was situated on the lot now owned by the village school district, a little farther back from the street than where the high schoolhouse now stands. The cost of the lot and building was about twenty-five hundred dollars. It was the intention of the projectors of the institution that it should maintain a high rank among the academic schools of the time.

The following is an extract from a communication in *Zion's Herald*, written by one of its trustees: "The building for the accommodation of this seminary is located on an eminence east of the thicket of dwelling-houses, — sufficiently retired for purposes of study and yet sufficiently near the dense population to accommodate students boarding in any part of the village. The building presents a fine front toward the principal thoroughfare through the town. The lower story affords two well-arranged rooms, one intended for the male and the other for female students. In the upper story is a spacious hall, with apartments for a library, philosophical apparatus, etc. The trustees are assured that board in respectable families shall be furnished at an expense not exceeding one dollar and fifty cents per week, including washing. Tuition, from three to five dollars."

The seminary was opened for the admission of students on Wednesday, December 10, 1834. The exercises on this occasion were: 1, Hymn; 2, Prayer by Rev. Mr. Wells (Unitarian); 3,

Address by Rev. Mr. Hague, of Boston; 4, Prayer by Rev. Mr. Powers (Orthodox); 5, Doxology; 6, Benediction by Mr. Hague. The hall was filled to overflowing. Between sixty and seventy students had been enrolled previous to and on that day, which number was increased to seventy-two before the close of the first month of the term. Carleton Parker, from Massachusetts, was the principal, Moses M. Burbank, assistant, and George Knox, assistant pupil.

The second term commenced with eighty pupils and was successfully conducted by Mr. Parker and his assistants. The third term was under the care of Mr. Parker, Mr. Burbank and Miss Ruth S. Robinson. The trustees, in the course of a favorable report of the examination at the close of this term, thus speak of our village: "Kennebunk is considered to be one of the most pleasant and healthiest villages in New England."

During the first year of its existence the academy was attended by quite a number of pupils from abroad, the sons or daughters of persons strongly interested in the success of this denominational movement, several of whom were from cities and towns where excellent schools were maintained. These generally withdrew from the academy at the close of the fall term, not in consequence of any dissatisfaction but because, having aided the institution at the start and feeling assured that it was established on a firm basis, they preferred that their children should attend the schools and academies nearer their respective homes. The prospects of the academy were not so bright, although by no means discouraging, at the commencement of the second year as they had been up to that time. Whether for this or other reasons, Messrs. Parker and Burbank and Miss Robinson resigned their situations, and the winter term (1835-36) was under the instruction of Mr. Bryce M. Patten, who continued as principal for nearly a year, when he was compelled by illness to procure a substitute for a part of his fourth term, by whom the winter term was taught. The denominational interest in the institution had at this time almost entirely ceased, except in the controlling power, which continued to be held where it was originally vested. Still it was well patronized by parents and guardians in this town, and the adjoining towns were fairly represented by pupils. Hall Roberts took charge at the commencement of the spring term, March first, 1837. For a few years the school met with fair success, but after a time it was considered impracticable to longer continue.

In 1856 the "academy building" was purchased by the district, repaired, remodeled somewhat and furnished with Shattuck's school



furniture. The summer term of the "man's school" was in charge of Timothy B. Ross, of Ipswich, Mass., a capable and efficient teacher. A primary school was kept in the "old schoolhouse" and a mixed school on the west side of the river. This year a large and commodious building was erected on Swan Street which was designed for a primary schoolroom on the lower floor; it was provided with the improved furniture and capable of accommodating eighty scholars. Action in reference to the finishing and furnishing of the room on the upper floor was deferred to a future time, when it could be better determined when and in what manner it should be completed so as best to promote the interests of the district.

The superintending school committee in their annual report, February, 1857, called attention to the subject of grading the schools in this district, and in April of the same year the district voted thereafter to maintain three schools, two primary and a higher, the latter in charge of a male teacher and the former in charge of female teachers; it also voted to divide the school year into three terms, so divided that each school would be in session thirty-eight weeks during the year, and, further, to employ the teachers by the year at fixed salaries.

An exhibition was given by the grammar school scholars, under the direction of their instructor, at the close of the winter term, 1857-58. The programme was a good one and it was carried out very creditably to scholars and teacher. An admission fee was charged, the net proceeds of which were applied to the purchase of reference books and philosophical apparatus for the use of the school. The exhibition was subsequently repeated (with some change in the programme) by the pupils and the net proceeds presented by them to Mr. Ross as a token of their respect and esteem for him personally, as well as of their high appreciation of his efforts in their behalf.

The superintending school committee in their report, 1857-58, call attention to the standing of the public schools in this town as exhibited in the statistical tables appended to the annual report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools, showing the amount raised per scholar by the several towns, the average attendance, etc. The exhibit was by no means creditable to the town. The citizens were both surprised and chagrined; their attention had not previously been called to the subject. They acknowledged the sin of

thoughtlessness, but felt that they could not be justly charged with intentional neglect of this important public interest. We need only add that this exposure was highly beneficial in its effect, and that the State Superintendent never thereafter received returns from this town from which facts and figures so discreditable could be obtained.

A public examination of the schools, at the close of the school year, was initiated in District No. 5 in 1861, and a year or two later in all the public schools in town.

The superintending school committee in their annual report, February, 1867, urged the importance of grading the schools in the larger districts. The response by the fifth or village district was prompt and practical. At a school meeting held in April following it was voted that thereafter the public schools in the district shall consist of (1) two primary schools, (2) a grammar school, (3) a high school. At this meeting it was also voted to make necessary repairs in the room on the lower floor of the academy building for the accommodation of the grammar school, and to remodel, finish and furnish the room on the upper floor for the use of the high school.

The grammar school, under the new organization, commenced June third, 1867, William H. Mitchell, instructor. Mr. Timothy B. Ross, of Ipswich, who had been instructor of the "higher school" from the spring of 1856 to the close of the winter term, 1866-67, with the exception of a few weeks, resigned his position at the last-named date and returned to Ipswich, to take charge of one of the schools in that town. Mr. Ross was a competent and faithful teacher and a much respected citizen.

The primary school east of Mousam River commenced April twenty-second and was taught by Miss Caroline T. Richards, and that west of the river commenced April fifteenth and was taught by Miss Isabel M. Ross. The first term of the high school commenced September ninth and was in charge of Mr. Albion Burbank, of Limerick.

A more auspicious commencement of the graded system could not have been desired, — a corps of excellent teachers, scarcely a vacant seat in either of the schoolhouses, and the citizens fully appreciating the superior educational advantages now offered to the children of the district.

"An act authorizing the inhabitants of school district number five in the town of Kennebunk to raise money for certain purposes"

and to elect "three superintending school committee men, clerk, treasurer, assessors, collector, fire wardens, one or more police officers, and such other officers as may be provided for in the by-laws of said district," was passed by the Legislature of Maine in 1868. An act additional to this, increasing the power of the district somewhat, was passed by a subsequent Legislature.

Mr. Mitchell resigned the position of teacher of the grammar school at the close of the winter term, 1868-69, much to the regret of all interested in the school. He was succeeded by Joseph H. Hill, of Limerick, who proved to be an excellent instructor and who continued in charge of the school until the close of the spring term, 1880, when he resigned. Mr. Hill performed all his duties in the station he so long occupied faithfully and well.

The "academy building," in which the high and grammar schools were kept, was destroyed by fire on the evening of the tenth of April, 1870. The cause of the fire is unknown. Temporary accommodations for the schools thus driven from their quarters were provided without delay, and both schools were in operation a week later. The inhabitants of the district voted to rebuild the schoolhouse at once and raised a sum sufficient for the purpose with great unanimity. The new building is of brick; its exterior appearance is quite neat; the interior affords commodious, well-finished and well-furnished rooms for the high school on the lower floor, and rooms equally convenient on the upper floor for the grammar school.

Mr. Burbank resigned the office of teacher of the high school at the close of the winter term, 1871-72, having accepted the position of principal of the Exeter (N. H.) High School, which he continues to hold. The fifth district was exceedingly fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Burbank as the first teacher of its high school. During the five years (nearly) that it was under his care, from its commencement to the date of his resignation, it was a model school. Doubtless others might have been found who would have done as well, but it is believed no one could have performed the duties devolving on him more intelligently or more satisfactorily.

The first graduating class, consisting of six pupils (five young ladies and one young gentleman), who had honorably completed the prescribed course of study, received their diplomas on the evening of March 1, 1872. The exercises were creditable in the highest degree to the members of the class. It may be well here to remark



that the several graduation classes since the above named have, respectively, in their public exercises, done themselves great credit. Of course there have been different degrees of excellence, but it can justly be said that all, individually and collectively, have acquitted themselves well. We cannot forbear to quote from the Superintending School Committee's Report for 1879-80 the following richly merited encomium: "The valedictory, by Miss Susie A. Curtis [daughter of H. Fuller Curtis] was remarkable for the evidences it presented of scholarly attainments, extensive and careful reading and deep thought on the part of the author. It was gracefully spoken and was an exceedingly meritorious production."

District No. 5, at its annual meeting in March, 1873, voted to convert the high school into a "free high school," under the provisions of an act of the Legislature of 1873, "in aid of free high schools," under which title it still continues to be known. District No. 9, now West Kennebunk, two or three years later availed itself of the provisions of the act above named and has up to the present time maintained a free high school.

An intermediate class was added to our school system in District No. 5 in 1875 and was conducted by Miss Luella F. Jordan with ability and success.

The village district at the present writing is well supplied with schools: High and Grammar, in the brick building at the foot of Dane Street; Eastern Intermediate, in the "old schoolhouse" near the Unitarian Church; Eastern or Central Primary, in the new schoolhouse erected in 1884 on Centennial Hill; Western Primary and Western Intermediate, in the school building on Swan Street on the west side of the Mousam River.

Our school buildings that have been erected within recent years bear evidence that the interests of education have received a good share of attention, and the youth of this day, compared with those who preceded them, enjoy vastly superior convenience and facilities for the acquisition of knowledge. The "old schoolhouse" still stands, however, a memorial of other days, not remarkable, certainly, because of its architectural beauty, its interior accommodations or its cheerful surroundings. This ancient structure has undergone many alterations in years gone by. It was again very greatly improved in 1880 in its interior arrangement and in being furnished with modern seats, etc. This should have been done years before

as an act of justice, of humanity even, to the children who were compelled to attend school there in a cold, gloomy and inconvenient room, and where they acquired knowledge under difficulties. Within its walls there have been many excited school meetings, many of childhood's innocent pranks as well as many acts of malicious mischief; the ruler has been applied with vigorous blows and stentorian lungs have given evidence of the suffering inflicted; here, too, opportunities have been neglected and as a consequence manhood has been cramped, while on the other hand opportunities of the diligent and well behaved have been improved and manhood has become intelligent, upright and a blessing to the community.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE CIVIL WAR.

The people of Kennebunk as a whole have always been imbued with patriotic feeling and have never failed, when exigencies arose, to manifest their faith by resolute action in what appeared to them to be sound principles. They were faithful to their king until the exactions of the mother country became oppressive and tyrannical, and then, when justice had been denied, they were loyal to the demands of the hour. When the British outrage at Lexington aroused the country and the call to arms was borne to them, they were prompt in their response and were well represented on the battlefields of the War of the Revolution. The resolutions adopted at their town meetings breathed the true spirit of true men, and are a rich legacy to their descendants. When they returned to homes impoverished and farms neglected, with the added trial of a depreciated currency, they accepted the situation, hoped for better days, and cheerfully gave the contributions of good example and diligent industry to aid in the attainment of such a result. Again, too, while the War of 1812-15, so destructive to their prosperity, was being waged, they bated not one jot or tittle in their love of country. They had opposed the war strenuously, not, however, by any unwarrantable act, but when the news of Hull's brilliant achievement in the capture of the *Guerriere* was received, the *Visiter* informs us, they assembled by a sort of involuntary impulse to congratulate each other on the event. Every countenance spoke feelings of national pride and satisfaction, the bell was rung, a sumptuous collation prepared and patriotic and highly national toasts were drunk.

And later, when our dear "old flag" had been dishonored, and the unwelcome tidings reached us that our Southern brethren had taken up arms with the avowed determination of severing the Union, a very large majority of the citizens of our town were decidedly loyal to the Government; they were both astounded and indignant when the intelligence reached them that the "old flag" had been dishonored and a Civil War inaugurated by the South Caroli-



nians, who had fired upon Fort Sumter, the holders of which they compelled to surrender. Meetings of the citizens were at once called to consider the situation and the demands of the hour upon them. The feeling was spontaneous that those demands should be promptly met, and that the calls of the Government, whether for men or money, should command their best efforts to completely fulfill their obligations to their country's cause. There was no lack of patriotic fire, no delay of decisive action. Intense earnestness characterized the period while noble men went forth from among us and battled for a noble cause.

During that dreadfully dark and trying period in our nation's history, when the South and the North were arrayed against each other in deadly conflict, the gentler sex were laboring in their homes in aid of the patriotic and heroic men who lay sick or wounded in our hospitals or on our battlefields; for the good work of relieving the suffering soldiers was confined to no section, to no party; everywhere wealth contributed of its abundance, while those of limited means were neither stinted nor backward in their offerings.

The following account of the disbursements of the town, in response to calls by the National Government, is compiled from the annual town reports. We are indebted to these reports and especially to the record kept by Mr. Andrew Walker,—at the request of citizens assembled in an informal meeting,—for the names of our townsmen and others who enlisted here and of natives or residents who joined regiments in this and other states.

Supplies to families of soldiers, per orders from selectmen,	\$3,251.95
State aid to families of soldiers,	3,818.34
	<hr/>
	\$7,070.29

This amount (\$7,070.29) was reimbursed by the State.

Paid to town officers for labor and expenses,	\$ 374.92
Paid to agents for labor and expense enlisting soldiers,	1,208.05
Bounties paid to soldiers, \$51,106.72, less \$12,675.04 reimbursed by the State,	38,431.68
	<hr/>
	\$40,014.65

A recruiting office was opened in Warren's Block in the spring of 1861. Several persons belonging to this town enlisted as recruits to fill up Massachusetts regiments, and a number whose homes were in Kennebunk enlisted in towns in other states, where they were temporarily employed, while quite a few of our citizens voluntarily enlisted and joined Maine regiments. The following is a list of soldiers who fought in the Union Army as recorded by Mr. Walker.

## RESIDENTS WHO ENLISTED IN 1861.

Plummer A. Adjutant, was enrolled in the Maine Infantry, his term of service to his country being three years and four months.

Joseph S. Brown, enlisted in the Naval service in New York, serving three years.

Samuel W. Brown, enlisted in the Naval service in Boston for two years.

Orville D. Bryant, was a musician in the Massachusetts Infantry; at the end of ten months he was discharged under act of Congress requiring dismissal of unnecessary bands of music.

Benjamin E. Burgess, was mustered into the Maine Infantry; serving thirteen months, he passed away shortly after his discharge from effects of an injury received while in the service.

Edward B. Butland, enlisted in the Massachusetts Infantry; he served three years, when he received a wound in his side and was discharged.

Lewis W. Butterfield, was mustered into the Maine Infantry; he was in the service seven months, when he died of yellow fever in New Orleans.

William H. Clark, served in the Maine Infantry three years; he died of a fever.

Samuel Cole, was three years in the Maine Infantry.

Oliver M. Cousens, was mustered into the Maine Infantry; he was discharged after nine months for disability.

George G. Downing, was with the Maine Infantry as a musician for ten months, when he was discharged under act of Congress.

George S. Dutch, served nearly three years in the Maine Infantry; he was wounded in his left leg.

Amos C. Emerson, was three years in the United States Artillery.

George W. Emerson, Maine Infantry; at the end of seven months he received a certificate of disability.

Washington Emerson, Maine Infantry; died in the service.

Lorenzo S. Emery, Maine Infantry; said to have deserted.

Tristram Goodwin, was a musician in the First Maine Cavalry for ten months, when he was dismissed.

George W. Hatch, served three years in the Maine Infantry.

Joshua Hatch, Jr., enlisted twice in the Massachusetts Infantry; he served one year in all.

Robert Hatch, was a sergeant in the Massachusetts Infantry; he was badly wounded and honorably discharged after seventeen months.

James P. Hill, served the Massachusetts Infantry and United States Artillery for nearly six years.

Joseph C. Hill, was a sergeant in the Massachusetts Infantry and a second lieutenant in the First Maine Cavalry; he served fourteen months in all.

Thatcher J. Huff, served twenty-one months in the Massachusetts Infantry; he was wounded and received a certificate of disability.

Horace Junkins, was enrolled in the Maine Infantry September 7, 1861. He was reported "missing"; probably killed in battle, May 16, 1864, not having been heard from since that date.

Robert P. Junkins, First Maine Cavalry, musician; in ten months he received his dismissal per order of Congress.

Edward W. Kimball, served three years in the Massachusetts Infantry.

Israel Kimball, was thirteen months in the New Hampshire Infantry; he received a certificate of disability.

David H. Knights, was three years and seven months in the Maine Infantry; he died in a hospital.

John G. Knights, enlisted in the Massachusetts Infantry; died of a fever in February, 1862.

Frederick H. Littlefield, was in the Naval service three years.

Gustavus B. Littlefield, was also in the Naval service three years.

Joseph Littlefield, served four years and seven months in the Maine Infantry; he was given a certificate of disability.

Nahum Littlefield, was one year and seven months in the Maine Infantry; he too received a certificate of disability.

John Moody, was with the Maine Infantry fifteen months, when he died of a fever.

Benjamin F. Oaks, served a year and three months in two enlistments in the Maine Infantry; he was wounded and was discharged by a certificate of disability.



Micajah Pope, enlisted with the New York Infantry and was detached to the Signal Corps, Army of the Potomac; at the end of three years he received his discharge as "a good and faithful soldier."

Harrison Sargent, enlisted in the Massachusetts Infantry, also in the Maine Infantry, serving three years and five months altogether; he was given a certificate of disability.

Emerson Smith, served nineteen months in the Maine Infantry; he received a certificate of disability.

Frederick Stevens, Jr., was drafted into the Maine Infantry; he is said to have deserted at the end of nineteen months.

Jesse M. Stevens, served the Massachusetts Infantry two years; he was killed in battle, May, 1863.

John L. Taylor, served four years and two months in the Massachusetts Infantry.

Charles H. Thompson, was in the Naval service fifteen months.

Samuel C. Thompson, served sixteen months in the Massachusetts Infantry; he died in a hospital.

Albert Webber, was one year in the Maine Infantry; he died from wounds received in battle.

Seth P. Whitten, was drafted into the Maine Infantry; he is said to have deserted a month after he was mustered in. It is believed that he later enlisted in the New Hampshire Infantry under an assumed name and died of fever in a New Orleans hospital.

#### ENLISTMENTS IN 1862.

Charles Bennett, served two years and ten months in the Maine Infantry; he was wounded and given a certificate of disability.

Calvin Boston, was two years and ten months in the Maine Infantry; he was wounded but not disabled.

Charles Brown, was mustered into the Maine Infantry, serving two years and eight months, when he was wounded and granted a certificate of disability.

Joseph T. Brown, served in the Maine Infantry; at the end of nine months he was also given a certificate of disability.

John Bunker, enlisted as a musician in the First Maine Cavalry; he died of congestion of the lungs before he was mustered in.

F. Augustus Butland, a sergeant in the Maine Infantry; was mortally wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, after being in service ten months and a half.

Eleazer Clark, was promoted to the quartermaster's department in the Maine Infantry as commissary sergeant of non-commissioned staff, January, 1865; he was in service two years and ten months.

William H. Collins, served two years and ten months in the Maine Infantry.

John P. Dutch, was eleven months in the Maine Infantry; he died of a fever in South Carolina.

Cyrus B. Goff, served in the Maine Infantry nearly three years; he was confined in Libby Prison four months.

Charles F. Grant, was mustered into the Maine Infantry, the time of service rendered by him being two years and ten months.

Alvin E. Griffin, served three years in the Maine and United States Infantries. The following list of battles in which he participated from October 14, 1863, to October 1, 1864, is named on his discharge: Bristow Station, Rappahannock Station, Mine Run, Wilderness, Coal Harbor, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Preble Farm and Chapel House.

Benjamin F. Hawkes (of Buxton; in the Adjutant General's report his residence is given as Kennebunk), served ten months in the Maine Infantry; he died of a fever.

Benjamin Hubbard, served nearly three years in the Maine Infantry and although he was in seventeen engagements while in the army yet he was not wounded in battle or otherwise injured.

Alvah Jellison, served a year and a half in the Maine Infantry; he was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg and discharged by a certificate of disability.

Albert Junkins, was mustered into the Maine Infantry and served nearly three years.

William Junkins, was two years, seven and one-half months with the Maine Infantry; he died of heart disease.

Charles M. Kimball, served nine months in the Massachusetts Infantry.

Frank Kimball, was fifteen months in the Naval service.

Joseph G. Knights, enlisted in the Massachusetts Infantry; he was discharged by a certificate of disability after having served but a couple of months.

Orrin R. Littlefield, served in the Maine Infantry two years and ten months.

Jacob T. Locke, was a corporal in the Maine Infantry for eleven months, when he was given a certificate of disability.

Marshall Lowell, was mustered into the Maine Infantry; he died suddenly at the end of two months.

Lyman Maxwell, served in the Maine Infantry two years and three months; he was taken prisoner by guerillas and died in Andersonville Prison.

E. Furber Mitchell, was enrolled to serve nine months with the Massachusetts Infantry.

Charles Nason, was appointed a chaplain in the Maine Infantry, which position he held for one year, when he resigned.

Charles H. Nason, was mustered into the Maine Infantry and transferred to the United States Infantry, serving one year and seven months, when he was taken prisoner and died in Andersonville Prison.

George H. Oaks, was drafted to serve nine months with the Massachusetts Infantry.

Benjamin Remich, was nearly four years with the Maine Infantry.

Alvah J. Rideout, served two years and three months in the Maine Infantry; he died in prison at Florence, South Carolina.

Henry D. Simpson, was two years and nine months in the Maine Infantry.

Samuel C. Thompson, was mustered into the Massachusetts Infantry; at the end of a year and four months he was taken ill and died in a Rhode Island hospital.

John W. Treadwell, served two years and two months with the Maine Infantry.

Edmund D. Vaughan, served nearly two years and a half in the Maine Infantry; he was taken prisoner at the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, and died in the prison at Andersonville.

Edwin B. Veazie, was with the Maine Infantry nine months; he died in a hospital.



James Veazie, served nearly two years in the Maine Infantry; he died of typhoid fever.

Charles J. Webster, having joined the Maine Infantry, died of typhoid fever at the end of ten months.

Jesse H. Webster, after serving one year, seven and one-half months was discharged with a certificate of disability from the Maine Infantry.

George A. Wentworth, served two years and ten months in the Maine Infantry.

Jeremiah P. Wormword, was in the Naval service three years.

A second quota of forty-six soldiers was called for a few weeks after the first had been raised; the term of service was nine months. Forty-five of these joined Company I, Twenty-seventh Regiment of the Maine Infantry. This regiment was assigned picket duty in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., an important station. All served their full term and were honorably discharged. The men that enlisted in this regiment from our town are as follows:—

James M. Stone, Lieutenant Colonel.

Seth E. Bryant, Captain.

Henry Littlefield, Second Lieutenant.

Isaac M. Emery, Sergeant.

William H. Moody, Sergeant.

John G. Cole, Corporal.

George W. Emerson, Corporal.

Edward N. Larrabee, Corporal.

Charles D. Tripp, Corporal.

George W. Adjutant,

Charles L. Burnham,

Nathaniel Butland,

Benjamin Buttrick,

William G. Cousens,

Orlando Drown,

Albra Garland,

Charles E. Garland,

Charles W. Gooch,

John B. Gooch,

William H. Gooch,

Nicholas Grant,

Alpheus T. Kimball,

Charles Kimball,

Emerson Littlefield,

John S. Manson,

Adam McCulloch, Jr.,

Jonas F. Merrill,

James E. Moody,

George W. Oakes,

Otis Perkins,

Emery S. Robinson,

George E. Robinson,

Horace V. Robinson,

James C. Haley,  
Charles Hanscomb,  
Samuel L. Hill,  
Charles S. Hubbard,  
Anthony Jackson,  
Thomas L. Jose,

Orrin W. Robinson,  
George W. Taylor,  
Horace Taylor,  
George W. Wakefield,  
Hartley L. Wells,  
Octavius E. Wells.

John Q. A. Ford joined Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment of the Maine Infantry, which made up the total of forty-six men that were drafted at this time.

In July, 1863, fifty-seven residents of Kennebunk were drafted at Portland; of this number only nine were accepted by the examining surgeon and each of these procured a substitute or paid a commutation fee.

In October of the same year our town was again called upon for soldiers, its quota being thirty-four; of this number but twelve were obtained in Kennebunk, viz.:—

\*William H. Moody, Second Lieutenant,  
\*James E. Moody, Sergeant,  
\*George W. Wakefield, Sergeant,  
\*George W. Oakes, Corporal,  
William Cleaves,  
Freeman A. Cobb,

George O. Cook,  
\*Albra Garland,  
\*John W. Hanscomb,  
Joseph Kimball,  
\*Adam McCulloch, Jr.,  
\*Horace Taylor.

All of the foregoing number joined Company L, Second Maine Cavalry, and were in the United States service nearly two years under this enlistment.

Charles Nason, of Kennebunkport, was appointed chaplain to this regiment, but was discharged by resignation after having served in this capacity fifteen months.

Twenty-one men, additional to the above, required to fill the town's quota of thirty-four men, were obtained elsewhere.

Those who enlisted in other regiments of the Maine Infantry from this town during the year 1863 were:—

John W. Fisher, time of service seventeen months; he was wounded in his left arm and discharged by a certificate of disability.

Frank Stevens, served seven months; he was taken ill and died in Virginia.

George T. Webber, was in the service twenty-two months.

\*Second enlistment.

Gilbert Wakefield joined the Massachusetts Cavalry, remaining with them nearly two years and eight months.

Another call for soldiers was made upon this town in February, 1864, the demand being for fifty-seven men; fifty-six of these were obtained elsewhere and one, John Robker, was sent from here. The bounty paid him amounted to three hundred and twenty-five dollars; expenses, twenty dollars and five cents.

The following enlistments of Kennebunk men in the United States service during the years 1864 and 1865 were:—

Seth E. Bryant, Captain of Company A, Thirty-second Regiment of the Maine Infantry; he resigned on account of ill health November 25, 1864, serving his second term in this capacity nearly nine months.

Daniel M. Chapman, enlisted in New York in the Naval service.

Henry F. Curtis, was commissioned Ensign in the Navy from May 23, 1864, to November 15, 1865.

Stephen G. Dorman, was appointed First Lieutenant of Company K, Thirty-second Regiment of the Maine Infantry; he resigned in about four months, August 4, 1864.

William Gillpatrick, was mustered into the Maine Infantry, March 13, 1865, for one year's service.

William C. Goodwin, was enrolled in the Eleventh Regiment, Company C, of the Maine Infantry October 8, 1864, for one year's service.

John W. Hanscomb, was transferred from the Second Cavalry Regiment to the Naval service June 30, 1864; he was discharged a few months later by a certificate of disability.

Charles F. Hatch, served nine months in the Maine Infantry, from October 5, 1864, to July 13, 1865.

Charles S. Hubbard, Sergeant of Company K, Thirty-second Regiment of the Maine Infantry, was mustered in the sixth of May, 1864, his second enlistment; he was fatally wounded in battle July thirtieth and passed away the following day.

Greenleaf C. Hutchins, enlisted in New York, July 20, 1864, in the Naval service and was discharged at Norfolk, Va., July, 1867.

John C. Lord, was commissioned Ensign in the Navy June 22, 1864; he was discharged August 23, 1867.



Philip Lynch, colored, enlisted in the Naval service in the spring of 1865, where he remained a number of years.

Adam McCulloch, Jr., was transferred from the Second Maine Cavalry to the Naval service June 30, 1864, where he was rated quartermaster; he was taken sick and died December thirty-first of that year.

E. Furber Mitchell, was employed in the United States Construction Corps of Mississippi from August 29, 1864, to April 8, 1865.

Albert F. Pitts, was assigned to Company E, Twenty-ninth Regiment of the Maine Infantry March 26, 1864, and was discharged June 10, 1865, without having joined it.

John Pring, enlisted in the Navy at Portsmouth, N. H., in September, 1864; he was discharged six months later.

Charles H. Robinson, served in the First Maine Cavalry nine months, when he was taken with typhoid fever and died at City Point, Va., September 27, 1864.

Henry P. Shorey, was mustered into the First Maine Cavalry, January 26, 1864; he was wounded in a skirmish and taken prisoner to Richmond, where he died in Libby Prison December 7, 1864.

William Symonds, was an Ensign in the Naval service from February 11, 1864, to June 20, 1865; he resigned his commission on account of ill health.

Edward Thompson, was appointed master's mate in the Naval service from May, 1864, to February 28, 1865.

Charles P. Whitten, served for about seven months in Company F, Twelfth Maine Regiment; he died of an illness which he contracted in service October 2, 1865.

The number of soldiers furnished by Kennebunk, in compliance with calls from the Government, was one hundred and sixty-nine, eighty-seven of whom were obtained in this town or its vicinity and eighty-two were enlisted elsewhere (including three substitutes provided by drafted men). Seventy-nine of our citizens enlisted in other States or in other parts of this State. Our entire contribution to the land and naval service of the United States may be justly stated to be two hundred and forty-eight citizens and hired men.

Of the one hundred and sixty-six enlistments recorded in the foregoing lists, twenty-one were re-enlistments, so that the names of only one hundred and forty-five different persons are embraced

therein. Some of this number cannot rightfully be called citizens of Kennebunk; a few of them, when enlisted, were citizens of adjoining towns and others were temporary residents whose legal homes were elsewhere. It is fair, we think, to estimate the whole number of these two classes at twenty, thus giving to Kennebunk one hundred and twenty-five actual residents who enlisted in the United States service, land and naval, during the Civil War. No better soldiers "faced the cannon's mouth" than were some of those who were the native or adopted sons of Kennebunk. Honor and gratitude are due to all who left their homes and risked their lives as faithful defenders of their country's cause in its time of trial. Kennebunk may well be proud of its war record, from the first "call to arms" to the cessation of hostilities. The living of that number have an honorable record which will last as long as the nation has a history. The large marble tablet which is securely fastened to the wall, midway up the staircase of Mousam Hall, tells the sad story of those who were not permitted to return; of widowed wives, of orphaned children and of bereaved parents. The tablet was placed there shortly after the close of the war to commemorate the memories of the victims of that struggle whose names are recorded thereon.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### BIOGRAPHICAL AND ANECDOTAL.

BOOTHBY, RICHARD, came over to this country about 1720. After looking around awhile, with the view of finding a desirable place wherein to establish himself as a tanner and shoemaker, he decided to try his fortune in Wells. He was a remarkably good-looking man, industrious, prudent and exemplary. He married Miss Mabel Littlefield, who was quite plain, indeed she was exceedingly "homely," as well as masculine in her manners. Her father, who was a trader in Wells, owned a sloop, of which she was commander. He shipped lumber, fish and other merchandise to Boston, receiving in return goods for his store and money; not unfrequently freight was offered by parties not connected with the family, which added to the profits of the voyage. Mabel was a merchant as well as a sailor; she bought and sold discreetly and her management of the sloop evidenced that she was quite proficient in seamanship. For several years she pursued the business of coasting very successfully. But Mabel was vain; her weakness was an inordinate fondness for jewelry and with this she bedecked herself extravagantly. Her friends, of both sexes, frequently bantered her on this foible, assuring her that she could never pile enough jewelry on her person to overcome the ugliness of her features, and that she must make up her mind to live in single blessedness always. To these jokers she would good-naturedly reply that she wore the jewelry to please herself and without any reference to "catching a beau," but always declared that she should in good time marry one of the best and one of the handsomest young men in town. In course of time Boothby became a resident of Wells; he was just the man that she would wish to accompany along the pathway of life in the sacred relation of wife. They met frequently and he was finally won over to her side. She was smart, capable, unimpeachable in moral character, agreeable and intelligent in conversation, and had laid by, for the time, a snug little property; she became his wife and it is believed that he never had reason to regret his choice. He removed to Kennebunk shortly after his marriage, having purchased land of Stephen



Harding, on Wood Neck, so-called. To this purchase he later added several other lots in the vicinity. He built a house near that occupied for a time by Warren R. Barney as a boarding house, but nearer the beach. This building was torn down by his son, who built another on the elevated ground, which formed the lower story of the boarding house just referred to. A second story was afterward added and its exterior much improved. Thomas Boothby, Sr., a great-grandson of Richard, inherited and for many years resided on a part of the original purchase. It subsequently became the property of the Kennebunk and Kennebunkport Seashore Company. Richard Boothby was frequently elected a member of important committees by the town and by the Second Parish, which authorizes the conclusion that he was much respected and regarded as a reliable and judicious man by his townsmen. He and his wife united with the church of the Second Parish at its organization in 1751. To Richard and Mabel Boothby the many persons bearing the surname in this town and the descendants of those who emigrated from this town can trace their lineage.

BOURNE, EDWARD E., son of John, was a lawyer. He held the office of selectman for five years, 1828 to 1832, and represented the town in the State Legislature six years, 1826 to 1831; he was also county attorney two years, 1830 and '31, and judge of probate from 1856 to 1873. He was the author of the History of Wells and Kennebunk.

BOURNE, GEORGE, son of John, was a shipbuilder in business at the Landing.

BOURNE, ISRAEL W., son of John, taught private schools in Kennebunk and in Dover, N. H. Most of his mature years were spent in the employment of a Boston wholesale house as bookkeeper.

BOURNE, THOMAS, son of John, was a physician. He moved to the eastward.

BOURNE, JULIA A., daughter of John, married Henry Kingsbury.

BOURNE, OLIVE L., daughter of John, married Dr. William S. Emerson and at his decease became the wife of Capt. Ivory Lord.

BRYANT, WILLIAM M., a native of Buxton, Maine, came to Kennebunk from Rochester, Mass., in 1831, where he had served for a few years as a minister of the "Christian" denomination. Here he was employed for many years as a teacher of common schools; he was a popular, earnest and conscientious instructor.

Mr. Bryant officiated as the town treasurer for several years; he represented the town in the State Legislature in 1841 and was one of the selectmen for the years 1842 and '43 and again from 1849 to 1854; he was also a member of the superintending school committee for some time. He married Mary E., daughter of Isaac Emery, August 17, 1823; they had eleven children, five of whom died early. Mr. Bryant passed away January 9, 1876, aged eighty years; his widow died January 13, 1879.

BRYANT, SETH EMERY, was the eldest child of William M. and Mary E. Bryant; he was born in Rochester, Mass., March 14, 1826, and was brought to this town by his parents in 1831. He was engaged in different business pursuits from 1844 to September, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in the Twenty-seventh Maine Regiment for nine months' service; he was chosen Captain of Company I in said regiment, which was stationed in the vicinity of Washington for the defense of the National Capital, and returned home at the expiration of his term of service. In March, 1864, he again joined the army as Captain of Company A, Thirty-second Maine Regiment. In May of the same year Mr. Bryant was attacked with "typho-malaria," contracted during the march from Washington to Spottsylvania, by way of the "Wilderness," which forced him to resign and to return to his home in December. Captain Bryant was deputy collector and inspector of the customs from 1865 to 1885 and he was one of the selectmen twenty-two years, between 1857 and 1886. He passed away January 26, 1888.

BURKS, JOHN. What "manner of person" this man was we are unable to say. He probably came to Wells in 1725, in company with the returning soldiers from the Lovewell fight, and took up his abode there. He became a tenant in Doctor Sayer's house, on Great Hill, as early as 1740. He probably had married in Wells and was the father of two or more children when he moved within the precinct of Kennebunk. He enlisted as a private in Maj. John Storer's company, raised for the Louisburg expedition. Mr. Burks was one of the petitioners for the incorporation of the Second Parish in 1749. He is represented as very poor. Fish from the surrounding waters, clams from the flats and a bird occasionally, made up the usual daily bill of fare for the family; vegetables were rarely added and Indian meal or any other kind of cereal was a luxury that they seldom enjoyed. At one time, it is said that they came in possession of four quarts of meal, two of which were cooked for

the family and the remainder set aside for use at an expected event. Mrs. Burks soon afterward gave birth to triplets, three lively boys. To cover one of these a few strips of old cloth had been provided; for the others there was not to be found in the house "a rag to cover their nakedness." Boothby's family provided for their wants, assisted somewhat, doubtless, by the Webbers. The children grew, the mother was soon "about house," and the "tide of affairs" rolled on as quietly and as smoothly as it had before this accession to its number. The mother insisted upon naming them, respectively, "Much Experience," "Little to depend upon" and "Great Deliverance." How these names were abbreviated for every-day use we have not learned. All the children fell victims to a throat distemper which prevailed extensively throughout New England from 1735 to 1745. Burks and his wife left the Kennebunk parish before 1760. We find on the town records of Wells the record of the marriage of William Butland to Mary Burks, perhaps the sister of John, in 1765, and of the marriage of Richard Burks, probably the son of John, to Mary Stewart, in 1785.

CHURCHILL, JOSEPH, moved into this town from Arundel about 1774 and kept a store near the site of the dwelling-house owned and occupied by George Wise. He was lieutenant in Capt. James Hubbard's company, which was stationed at Cambridge, Mass., enlisting for eight months' service, 1775. He probably was not long a resident of Arundel, as Bradbury does not mention him. He evidently had considerable capital or excellent credit and was a good business man. It is not known whether he re-enlisted after the expiration of his term of service, or was killed, or took up his abode elsewhere; he did not again make this town his home. Churchill probably built the store on the Wise lot which he occupied.

CLARK, JONAS, was a son of Rev. Jonas Clark, of Lexington, Mass., where he remained until his majority, when he removed to Portland and there engaged in mercantile pursuits. He came to Kennebunk about 1787 and formed a copartnership with Thomas A. Condry. Mr. Clark was married to Sally Watts, of Portland, in July, 1789. He was the first collector of the customs for the District and Port of Kennebunk, established in 1800, which office he held until 1810. In 1800 he was also appointed a standing justice of the Court of Common Pleas for York County, which position he held until the organization of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas in 1811, when he was made special justice. He received the appoint-



ment of judge of probate in 1818, succeeding Stephen Thacher, and retained the position until September, 1828, when he resigned. "In all his public stations he discharged his duties with ability and integrity. In private life he was remarkably pleasant, kind and benevolent." He removed from the village of Kennebunk to his farm at Wells Branch a few years before his decease, which occurred November 8, 1828.

CONDY, CAPT. THOMAS A., came here from Portland about 1785 and succeeded Joseph Churchill in the country store kept in a small building on the lot occupied by the dwelling-house of Mr. George Wise. In 1787 he took Jonas Clark into his store as a partner. In May, 1789, he was married in Portland; his wife and Clark's were cousins. Condy enlarged the store and the added part was improved by him as a dwelling-house. The firm of Condy & Clark afterward removed uptown and built a store opposite the lot on which the Joseph Porter house was erected.

COUSENS, MAJ. NATHANIEL, was for many years one of the most prominent and useful of the citizens of Wells; he always lived in the part of the town known as Kennebunk. His wife was Catharine, daughter of Joshua Lassel, Jr., of Arundel, and granddaughter of Joshua Lassel, a cooper, who removed from York to Arundel in 1723. We think that Major Cousens was longer in military service during the Indian and Revolutionary Wars than any other inhabitant of this town; he always promptly responded to the call of duty, was fearless and efficient as a soldier and as an officer, and always merited and received the commendation of his superior officers. He served as ensign during the first eight months at Cambridge in 1775; as first lieutenant at Falmouth in 1776, as adjutant of the regiment in command of Colonel Storer at the taking of Burgoyne that same year; as captain in the expedition to Penobscot in 1779, and in the same service was promoted to the rank of major; in all, something more than two years' service in the Revolutionary Army. In town affairs Major Cousens was held in high esteem. He was one of the selectmen for the long term of twenty-one years, and when he declined a re-election in 1809 a "vote of thanks of the town to Maj. Nathaniel Cousens for his good services" was unanimously adopted. He was frequently chosen auditor of the treasurer's accounts, a member of important committees, and by the Second Parish he was regarded as one of the most valuable members. His daughter Catharine married Benjamin Wentworth, of



this town; she was considered to be an excellent woman. Joshua, Jr., was a soldier in the company raised by Maj. John Storer, in Wells and vicinity, by order of Sir William Pepperell, to join the expedition to Louisburg. Major Cousens died August 13, 1832, aged ninety-one years.

FERNALD-FURNELL. The Fernald families in town trace their descent to Renald Furnell, surgeon, of Kittery. Richard Vines conveyed to "Thomas Furnell, son of Renald, two islands on the northeast side of the Piscataqua River, known as Puddington's Islands for a yearly rental of 6s. and 6d." The first inhabitant of this town of that name came here from Kittery and purchased land and built a house on the road leading to "Hart's Beach." His descendants still own and occupy the old homestead.

FISHER, JACOB, was a good physician, an excellent citizen and a public-spirited man. He was a great reader, especially of historical and philosophical works, an impartial and judicious magistrate. He was noted for sarcastic writings, both in prose and poetry, descriptive of ludicrous incidents "about town," and lampooning shams in whatsoever walk of life they might be found. His fund of anecdotes was almost inexhaustible; he was an excellent story-teller; no matter how mirth-provoking the anecdote that he was relating, he never exhibited the slightest show of mirth until it was completed, and then his laughter was long, loud and hearty. A few years ago material for a good-sized duodecimo volume might easily have been collected, made up of reminiscences of jokes that he had perpetrated, of his dry and frequent sayings and of facetious stories that he had told. We have room for only a very few of them:—

(1) The Doctor was somewhat liberal in his religious views. An honest but a weak-minded man, who had attained to the position of deacon, was frequently much saddened when listening to the Doctor's remarks on sacred things, purposely made quite objectionable when the Deacon was present. One Saturday afternoon several gentlemen had congregated in one of the village stores and among them the Deacon. A case of over-zealous action on the part of a citizen whose life, it was generally admitted, did not accord with his professions, became the subject of discussion. The Doctor, although he did not often indulge in personalities, was outspoken in reference to hypocritical professors and narrow-minded bigots. The Deacon was aggrieved. Said he: "Doctor, I wish you would not say such things; I wish you could be converted, become a

Christian man and work in the Saviour's cause; with your talents and influence you might be a powerful instrument in the great work of reforming mankind. I have faith to believe that I can convince you of your error. Now suppose that I state my belief, and when I say anything you cannot agree to, it shall be right for you to interrupt me, when we will peacefully argue the point, I being allowed the same privilege when you state your belief." "Very well," responded the Doctor, "proceed, Deacon." After a brief parleying about which one should commence the discussion, the Deacon, with a few preliminary "hems and coughs," commenced: "I believe I am a rational and an accountable being." The Doctor interrupted: "*I doubt that*, decidedly, Deacon." The debate had closed!

(2) The Doctor had an apothecary's shop at the northeast corner of his dwelling-house; the entrance to which was near the street. In the doorway he sat, in his armchair, several hours each day when the weather permitted such a position to be enjoyable. Passers-by very frequently stopped a few moments for a brief chat, and especially was this the case on pleasant evenings during the summer months. On such evenings, too, a few of the neighbors were accustomed to take places in the vicinity of the Doctor's chair and to engage in conversation respecting the weather, gunning, farming, the political and other topics of the time of general interest and incidents of village life. The Doctor had a farm-hand, the embodiment of honesty and simplicity, who frequently stood by and listened to these conversations. It struck John, at one time, that he had a question to propose which would give to the neighbors a somewhat exalted opinion of his intelligence and sagacity. "Doctor," said he, at one of these gatherings, "if two men sign a note, don't they write it 'we jointly and severely promise to pay'?" "Devilish severely, sometimes, John."

(3) The Doctor had a patient in a rural district—a large, powerful man and, when sane, one of the most affable and exemplary—who was afflicted with occasional spells of insanity. It was necessary, at times, to confine him in a large cage, such as is often used with persons in his condition. He had had a long and distressing attack of his trouble and had become so furious that the family were afraid that he would "break his prison bars." The Doctor was sent for, and upon his arrival he bled the man profusely, but not without a severe struggle. After awhile the paroxysm subsided and the patient became calm and more rational. Suddenly he knelt,

saying, "Let us pray." All present assumed a fitting attitude. He made a very long prayer, commending to guidance and protection—so it appeared to his listeners—everybody and everything, including even his Satanic majesty, that he might "be loosed from his bonds and become a minister of good to all peoples." At length he closed with: "And now, O Lord, here is Thy servant Jacob, may—Thy servant Jacob—here is Thy servant Jacob. Amen." "A very excellent prayer, Mr. —," said the Doctor at its close. "Yes," answered the patient, "I think it was. I felt, as I went along, that I was gifted from on High, but I must say when I came to pray for you, Brother Jacob, I—was—confoundedly—bothered. *I had to give it up.*"

(4) Occasionally the tables were turned and the Doctor came off second best. There was a worthy lady of his acquaintance who regarded regular attendance at the church services as *the* essential duty, never to be neglected when health would admit of its performance. At one time as she was passing his door, on her way to a Wednesday evening meeting, the Doctor, in a slow and measured tone, began to recite the well-known lines: "And while the lamp holds out to burn"; the lady hurriedly interrupted, "The vilest sinner may return," Doctor.

Doctor Fisher died the twenty-seventh of October, 1840, aged eighty-one years.

FLETCHER, NATHANIEL HILL, was born in Boxborough, Mass., in 1769. His father was a farmer, in good pecuniary circumstances and much esteemed as a worthy and an exemplary man. Having completed the usual preparatory studies, he entered Harvard College in 1789, where he took a course in divinity and graduated in 1793. He came to Kennebunk in 1798 and was teacher of the winter terms of the public school in the village from 1798 to 1800, and of a private school in the interim, frequently assisting Rev. Mr. Little in his pulpit exercises; he was ordained as colleague pastor with Mr. Little in September, 1800. Mr. Fletcher was a fine scholar, a good speaker, clear and distinct although moderate in his utterance, and undoubtedly ranked with the foremost of his profession in this county, if not in the State. After Maine became a State it is said that Judge Mellen and a prominent member of the Cumberland County Bar were accustomed, on the Sunday preceding a term of the court at York, to leave Portland at an early hour so as to reach Kennebunk in season to attend the morning service, in order



that "they might listen to Mr. Fletcher's impressive prayers and one of his sound, practical sermons." At the close of the afternoon service they resumed their journey and reached York in the evening.

Mr. Fletcher was married, January 1, 1801, to Sally, daughter of John Storer, innkeeper, of Wells, and commenced housekeeping in the Doctor Rice house, then owned by Captain Dighton, afterward owned and occupied by Mrs. John Osborn. A year or two later Mr. Fletcher purchased and occupied the estate formerly belonging to Samuel Stevens, Jr., then recently deceased, consisting of an unfinished house and barn and several acres of land, to which, in after years, he added several contiguous lots. This estate has recently been in the possession of Edwin Parsons. There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher eight children, viz.: Abel, who became a popular lecturer on astronomy, and afterward a minister of the Methodist denomination; he married a lady belonging to Litchfield, N. H., of which town he was a resident for many years and, we think, until his death. Abigail, who married a farmer belonging to Boxborough, Mass. George (Wallingford), who was a teacher; he died, while employed as principal of the Academy at Baton Rouge, La., June 22, 1848, aged thirty-one years. Jonas, who died in early manhood. Hannah, who married Joseph A. Whitney, of Boston, October 11, 1841; Mary, who married William W. Fuller, counselor at law, of Mount Pleasant, Ill.; John, who married September 9, 1840, at Dorchester, Mass., Miss Clarissa Tolman; and Charles. In stature Mr. Fletcher was above the medium height; he was well formed and commanding in appearance.

He adored his profession. No duty was neglected. The bounds of the town were also the bounds of his parish. The sick and distressed were visited by him and words of consolation spoken to them; the poor always found in him a firm and open-handed friend, and when his means would not permit him to do all that should be done for their relief, he called the attention of benevolent persons of pecuniary ability to such cases of destitution; the schools were not neglected. Young men just entering on the "sober realities of life," the middle aged and those advanced in years who had been unfortunate and were discouraged always found in him a reliable and sympathizing brother and received from him judicious advice suited to their respective needs. He performed all the duties devolving on him as a Christian minister, a Christian citizen and a Christian man with the utmost fidelity and well deserved the respect with which he was universally regarded.



FROST, WILLIAM, was a soldier and officer in the Revolutionary Army from near its commencement to its close. He held the office of register of deeds for the County of York for thirty years and that of county treasurer nearly all that time. He died in York June 2, 1827.

GILLPATRICK, NATHANIEL, was a ship carpenter and master workman for many years in the building yards at the Landing. His estate is now owned and occupied by Thomas Crocker.

GILLPATRICK, ASA, the son of Nathaniel, was a shipmaster. He married Hannah, daughter of Michael Wise, May 3, 1822. A few weeks subsequently he sailed from Boston, as master of the brig Vineyard, for the West Indies. He died in March, 1823, while on his passage from Port au Prince to another West India island.

GOOCH (spelled on the earlier records, GOUCH), JOHN, came to this town about 1653 and purchased land on the Mousam and in its vicinity. He was also, at one time, part owner of the Middle or Cat Mousam Mill and of the privilege. He came from York to this town with his wife, Ruth, his son, John, Jr., and other children. His name frequently occurs on the records as the buyer and seller of real estate. We think that the property held for many years by Gooch families, on the sea road, was purchased about 1753 to 1760. Some of our best citizens may be found among the descendants of John. The senior Gooch sold his house in York and several lots of land, which he had "possessed and improved," to Abraham Preble, of York, March 8, 1653.

GRANT, CAPT. JOHN, born about 1745, an officer in the Revolutionary Army and a respectable and worthy citizen, died in Kennebunk, where he had resided for many years, on the third day of November, 1825. He was a native of Boston.

HARDING, STEPHEN, was the son of Israel Harding, to whom the town of Wells, September 12, 1670, granted two hundred acres of upland and ten acres of marsh, on condition that he should come into Wells, as an inhabitant, within three months, continue as such five years and do the blacksmith work for the inhabitants "for such currant pay as the town doath produce." Stephen, with his wife, Abigail Littlefield, of Wells, whom he had recently married, moved from the western to the eastern part of Wells about 1702 and settled near the mouth of Kennebunk River. He built a garrison house sufficiently large to enable him to entertain travelers; also a

blacksmith's shop. He was a man of powerful frame, an excellent marksman, a hunter, shrewd and dauntless, and of course was regarded as a most valuable citizen by his townsmen. He was frequently employed by the Colonial Government as a guide to expeditions, both civil and military, sent out under its authority; was licensed to keep a public house and to retail ardent spirits; indeed, he kept quite a little stock of the luxuries and necessities of life, such as tobacco, tea, coffee, molasses, etc. Many of these he bartered with the Indians for furs. He was very popular with his red-skinned customers, for he was not only remarkably genial, but he was strictly honest; whatever he sold them was of full weight and measure, and whatever he bought of them was fairly weighed and the weight correctly stated to them, and he never watered the liquors that he sold. Although so conscientious in his dealings, he felt that it was perfectly justifiable occasionally to treat his Indian friends to stories that were strongly tinged with the marvelous. One of these we give: While cleaning his gun one day,—the chief Wawa and several other red men being present,—he related many gunning adventures wherein this piece had acted an important part, and concluded by explaining how he loaded it when he was about to go in pursuit of wolves, bears or Indians; he put in powder, shot and wadding, charge upon charge, until the barrel was filled to within an inch or two of its muzzle, and when thus loaded he was enabled, by a peculiar motion of the arm which he well understood, to send out one charge at a time and to turn the gun so that the shot would take effect on animals or persons standing or lying in different directions. His auditors listened attentively, looked grave and uttered their often-repeated expression, "Much man, Ste-ven."

The Indians had wigwams in the vicinity of Harding's dwelling place and in time of peace were very frequent visitors to his shop and house; but in war time they were constantly on the alert to capture him alive, with the view of taking him to Canada, where his services as a blacksmith, and especially as a gunsmith, would be invaluable; and, moreover, knowing how much he was appreciated at home, they were confident that a good sum could be obtained for his release from captivity. During Queen Anne's War—1703 to 1713—Harding one morning, from certain indications, felt assured that there were no natives in his vicinity. He had been watching for an opportunity to visit one of the Cape Porpoise Islands for the purpose of obtaining a few ash sticks, of which he stood in need, and now seemed to be a favorable moment; the weather was clear,

it was calm and the sea smooth. Taking a flat-bottomed boat, he proceeded to the island, cut and loaded his ash sticks and was proceeding homeward when the wind changed, with a brisk breeze and a rough sea; the state of the tide was also unfavorable. He doubted the expediency of attempting to enter the river and determined to wait for high water and then beach his boat. While waiting the rise of the tide, a dozen or more warriors appeared on the shore; they were in high spirits, for it appeared to be certain that Stephen would now fall into their hands. Stephen stood up in his boat and pointed his gun toward them; they hesitated. The tide attained its maximum for the day and Stephen managed to beach his boat and reach his domicile in safety. A year or more afterward, when peace prevailed, nearly all the party of natives just referred to were in Harding's shop. This adventure was referred to, when Harding told the natives that they were cowardly not to attack him when alone and to so great disadvantage, while there were so many of them and everything favorable to their success. The spokesman of the party shrugged his shoulders and replied: "Dev'lish many charges in that gun, Ste-ven." They remembered the story of the loading with many charges.

Bradbury relates this story: One day during the war of 1703-13, while on the way to his shop, he noticed a large company of savages, of all ages and both sexes, on Oakes's Rocks; a ruse, as it afterward appeared, the natives hoping that while Harding was scrutinizing this crowd several of the warriors, who were in ambush, could, by a stealthy movement, make him a prisoner. The old hunter understood Indian trickery too well to be thrown off his guard by this manoeuvre. He comprehended the situation at a glance and decided that it would be unwise to act on the defensive; he must seek safety in flight. He succeeded in getting his wife and an infant across the creek (now Gooch's) and the intervening rivers between that and Storer's garrison, which he reached late on the following day. It was a journey full of peril. Not only were the savages in pursuit of him, but a large bear obstructed his path, compelling him to change his route and pursue a much more circuitous course than he had intended. They reached "Tavern Hill," where the old Jefferds Hotel now stands, just after nightfall. There was no building on the way, only "woods, woods everywhere." The hill was covered with a thick growth and here they tarried through the night, subsisting on berries, pursuing their way, when daylight appeared, through thickets, briers and woods. After a toilsome and



anxious day's travel they reached Storer's garrison late in the evening. The Indians did not destroy Harding's buildings; he reoccupied them as soon as it was considered prudent for him to do so. He kept, as Bradbury informs us, on the marsh near his house, a hollow stack of hay, inside of which, in times of danger, he frequently secreted his family.

For some reason Harding moved across the river into Arundel in 1720, probably, however, the better to pursue his avocation of ferryman. He had a grant of fifty acres from the town of Arundel. He purchased of the heirs of William Reynolds a large tract of land on the east side of the river, but owing to a defect in his title he lost fourteen-fifteenths of his purchase, which came into the possession of Thomas Perkins. He likewise bought all the land between the river and Lake Brook on the west side; his title to this also proved to be defective, and Sir William Pepperell became its owner. Harding died December 5, 1747, about two months after the decease of his wife. He left several children, one of whom, Lydia, married Thomas Perkins, Jr., who commanded a company which participated in the engagement that resulted in the surrender of Louisburg, in 1745. It is supposed that he built the house formerly occupied by the late Tristram J. Perkins, in Kennebunkport, believed to be the oldest house now standing in that town, having been erected about 1730. It subsequently became the property of a Mr. Nevins, of Philadelphia, by whom it has been considerably improved. The kitchen floor of this house was laid with plank one and three-fourths inches in thickness, which were fastened with white oak pins or treenails; when this floor was taken up, a few years ago, the whole space beneath it was covered to the depth of a foot or more with sea sand that had sifted through the openings between the planks in the century and a quarter that had elapsed since they were laid. Tradition says that the nails used in the building of this house were forged by Stephen Harding, father of the builder's wife. A strong majority of Harding's descendants, through all the generations, have been females. One of his descendants, in the third generation, married the late Benjamin Elwell, at Kennebunk Landing; two of them, James and William, resided in this town about 1825, perhaps later, and carried on the business of brick making in the yards near the village, one of which was in Barnard's pasture (since owned by J. H. Ferguson and others) and the other in Porter's pasture (now Hartley Lord's). They removed to Chelsea, Mass., where they pursued the same occupation very suc-



cessfully. Joseph Hatch, of Newton, formerly of this town, married a descendant of Harding in the fourth generation. We think that the name is now extinct in this vicinity.

HILL, JOHN, was a house carpenter, "a worthy member of society." He was born in 1746 and died in March, 1817. During the first decade of the nineteenth century he built the dwelling-house now owned and occupied by heirs of the late Ralph Curtis, on a lot a few rods above the "Fletcher place." The building, shortly after Mr. Hill's death, was sold to Mr. Curtis, who removed it to its present eligible situation. The lot on which it stood was afterward sold at auction, as was the half part of the Taylor building which belonged to Hill's estate, now owned and occupied by the heirs of Mrs. Hewes. He was an officer, major, in the State Militia. Hr. Hill left a widow, son and three daughters. His son, Samuel, was somewhat daft, but supported himself by various kinds of labor that he could perform. He was usually called "Major." Some persons were in the habit of making him a butt for coarse jokes and smart sayings, who not unfrequently received rejoinders so rough, sententious and stinging that the aggressor gladly withdrew and left the Major "master of the field." One of the daughters married a Mr. Jordan, who lived in one of the interior towns in the county; another, late in life, went West to reside with a relative or friend, and the third, who for a number of years was the teacher of the district primary school, died before the breaking up of the family. This family lived for many years in the house afterward owned by the heirs of John Mitchell, which was moved to its present location from the Ross road about 1818.

KEZER, TIMOTHY, of the firm of Kezer & Porter in 1809, and later a shipbuilder and trader at the Landing, died in September, 1820, while on his return from a visit to the mouth of Washita River, in Louisiana, to his home in Batavia, Ohio.

LORD. The families in Kennebunk and its vicinity of this surname trace their genealogy to Robert Lord, who came from England in 1636 or '37 and became a resident of Ipswich, Mass. He died in 1683, leaving four sons, from the two younger of whom—Robert and Nathaniel—"the families of New England sprung." "The families in Kennebunk and Kennebunkport descended from John, who came from Ipswich to Berwick about 1700, in company with two brothers, Abraham and Nathaniel." In 1747 Tobias and Benjamin Meeds Lord, cousins, came from Berwick to Kennebunkport, "purchased

land of one Jeremiah Folsom, on Saco road, and built a garrison which they occupied together." Tobias married Jane Smith and had eleven children. One of these, Tobias, Jr., after serving an apprenticeship on a farm in Sanford, enlisted in a company raised in Wells, was chosen lieutenant and served in the Revolutionary Army two or three years. He left the army in 1781 and became an inhabitant of Kennebunk. He built a small dwelling-house and store near the Mousam Mills. Of his business movements subsequently we have spoken in another part of this volume. He married Mehitable Scammon; she lived but a few years after her marriage. Their children were Tobias, Nathaniel and Samuel. Tobias lived in Arundel and later was a merchant in New York. Nathaniel resided in Arundel and was quite successful in business; he was a shipowner and had vessels abroad when the War of 1812 was declared; these luckily escaped the British men-of-war cruisers and arrived safely in United States ports; their cargoes of salt and other merchandise sold at extravagantly high prices, the product of which, added to the property that he had acquired, made him quite wealthy. Samuel remained in Kennebunk for a few years and engaged in shipbuilding at the Landing, where he built a dwelling-house and store; then he went to New York and engaged in mercantile business with Tobias. He married Hannah, daughter of Maj. William Jefferds; they had several children, sons, all of whom died in early manhood. Mr. Lord married for his second wife, in 1781, Hepzibah, daughter of Nathaniel Conant, who for a few years was a resident of Kennebunk but removed to Alfred before 1790. By this marriage the children were George, Ivory, William, Francis A., Hepzibah, Abigail, Mehitable, Betsey and Lucy.—George married Olive, daughter of Maj. William Jefferds; they had five children: George C., who married a daughter of Robert Waterston and who for a number of years was president of the Boston & Maine Railroad. Charles, who engaged in mercantile business in Boston; he married Lucy, daughter of Joseph M. Hayes, of Saco. Edward W., who read law and was admitted to the York County Bar; ill health prevented him from pursuing the profession; he made his home in Newton, Mass., and with his cultured literary taste has enjoyed life among his books and in the society of his friends. Lucy Hayes, who died in 1833, aged fifteen years, and a younger daughter who died at an early age.—Ivory married Louisa, only daughter of Capt. Hugh McCulloch; their children were: Augusta, who married Rev. Joseph C. Smith, of Groton, Mass.; William F.,

who married Olive, youngest daughter of Horace Porter; Louisa, who married Joseph Dane; John A., who married Lucy Amanda, youngest daughter of Alexander Warren; Elizabeth, who married Capt. Nathaniel L. Thompson; Olive, who married Edward W. Morton; and Frederick, who died in childhood. John A. is the only survivor of this family; he has one daughter living, Kate M. Capt. Ivory was twice married; his second wife was Mrs. William S. Emerson. — William married Sarah, daughter of Daniel Cleaves, of Biddeford; they had ten children, viz.: Sarah C., William C., Hartley, Robert W., George W., Daniel C., Henry C., Frederick, Mary C., who died when two years old, and Mary C., named for the former. Sarah married Capt. William Barry, of Boston; they had two children, William E., architect, and Charles D., member of a banking firm in Boston. William C. engaged in business in Boston. Hartley, manufacturer, retired from active business in Boston and makes his home in Kennebunk; he married Sarah, only daughter of Isaac Hilton; they had three children: George Callender, Marion E. and William H. Hartley took for a second wife Julia, daughter of Capt. Charles C. Perkins, of Kennebunkport. Robert W., manufacturer, married Mary, daughter of Samuel Mendum; they have three daughters: Sarah C., Elizabeth C. and Frances A. George Wells married Lucy Augusta, only child of George W. Bourne. Henry C. resided in Boston. Daniel C. and Frederick died early. Mary C. married Walter Coleman, a lawyer in Brooklyn, N. Y.; two sons and a daughter survive her. — Francis A. married Frances, daughter of Benjamin Smith; they left one daughter. — Hepzibah married Robert Waterston and removed to Boston. — Abigail married Charles W. Williams. — Mehitable and Betsey married Francis Watts. — Lucy married Hercules M. Hayes, of the firm of Waterston, Pray & Co.; they removed to New York. — A very small percentage of the children of these marriages became, in their mature years, residents of Kennebunk, although many of the younger citizens can trace their descent, in a remote degree, to Tobias, Jr.

LORD, DOMINICUS (son of Tobias, Sr.), was a blacksmith and served his apprenticeship with Richard Gillpatrick; he married Mary, daughter of Edmund Currier, in 1784; their children were: Mary, Lydia, Susanna, Mehitable, Edmund, Joseph and Thomas L. Mary married Mark Dresser. Susanna married Elisha Chadbourne. Mehitable married Benaiah Littlefield. Edmund was a blacksmith; he died November 24, 1830, aged thirty-six years. He left one son, Ivory, who was a machinist. Joseph was a sailor; he died at Aux



Cayes, on board the brig *Alliance*, in 1820, at the age of fifteen years. Thomas L. married Lucy Currier; he was a shipmaster. Lydia was never married; she lived to be ninety-five years old.

LORD, LYDIA, daughter of Tobias, Sr., married Samuel Kimball, of Alewife, son of Richard Kimball, Sr.

LORD, BENJAMIN MEEDS, of Kennebunkport, married Mary March, of Kittery. He was a justice of the peace. We have seen papers drawn up by him which were creditable for the time. He left two sons and three daughters. Benjamin married Amy Lassel and removed to Alewife; Susan married Samuel Burnham, of Alewife; Mary married George Perkins, who removed to this town from Kennebunkport. A biographical sketch of him, the particulars of which were furnished by his son George, will be found in the preceding pages.

LORD, WILLIAM, JR., son of Nathaniel, of Kennebunkport, commenced life as a seaman and rose to the position of shipmaster; he afterward became a shipbuilder and shipowner. At the time of his decease he was considered the richest man in Kennebunk.

LYMAN, THEODORE, was born in York in 1753; he was the son of Rev. Isaac Lyman, the third minister of York, where he was ordained in 1749. He continued in the ministry until his decease, in 1810, having completed sixty years of ministerial labor. Theodore was a resident of Kennebunk for several years, trading in the village and at the Landing. Removing to Boston, he was for a long period one of the most successful merchants in that city in the China and India trade. He passed away in Waltham, Mass., May 24, 1839, aged eighty-six years, leaving a large estate.

MITCHELL, JOHN, was born in England, April 26, 1708. He was one of a family of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters. Three of the sons emigrated to this country prior to 1740, making the town of York a temporary home. One of them settled in the vicinity of Boston, one in Freeport, Maine, and one, John, came to Kennebunk about 1740. He bought a tract of land near Kennebunk River, erected a two-story dwelling-house, the first of such imposing dimensions in the town, built a wharf near his residence, the first on the west side of the river, and, as elsewhere stated, was part owner of the first vessel built on the river. He was prominent in town and parish affairs and an excellent man. He married Lydia Sewall, of York, and was the father of thirteen chil-



dren, six of whom survived him. One of these, Jotham, born November 2, 1746, built the house occupied for many years by his grandson, Rev. William H. Mitchell, about 1769. William, a son of Jotham, succeeded his father in the occupation of this dwelling-house and the farm connected therewith. William was born in August, 1794, and died in February, 1874. He was one of the selectmen from 1846 to '48, an upright and respectable man. He left two sons, William H. and George E. William H. acquired an enviable reputation as a school-teacher and toward the latter part of his life ranked among the foremost of the ministers of the Second Advent denomination. George made his home in Lowell, Mass., and was the founder and sole proprietor of the "Novelty Plaster Works," a very extensive establishment in that city.

MITCHELL, JOHN, the second of the name among our early settlers, came from York about 1755, bought one hundred and ten acres of land in what is known as the Cat Mousam district, together with several smaller lots, and was a successful farmer. He built the house occupied for many years by Miss Ellen Mitchell, daughter of the late Dea. Elisha L. Mitchell, who was a descendant of the fourth generation. It is supposed that this family is distantly related to that of John at the Port.

MITCHELL, JOHN, the third of the name among our early settlers, came to York and thence to Wells about 1760, where he resided for awhile, then returned to York and later made his home in Canada. It is not known that there is any relationship between him and the Johns above named. Some particulars in reference to him and his descendants will be found elsewhere in this volume.

MOODY, JOSEPH, was one of the worthy citizens who was an active business man in this town during the last decade of the eighteenth century. He was for several years one of the representatives of the town of Wells in the Massachusetts Legislature and was president of the Kennebunk Bank while it was in operation and for ten years was treasurer of our town. He was an upright, intelligent and very much respected citizen. He died July 20, 1839, seventy-six years of age.

OSBORN, JAMES, SR., a native of Charlestown, Mass., came to this town in 1784, as a clerk for Tobias Lord. He had previously served six years in the Army of the Revolution and had been two years a clerk for Dr. Ivory Hovey, of Berwick. He was married to

Nancy Lord, of Berwick, the same year that he took up his residence here. He succeeded Prentice as a trader on Water Street and kept store awhile in the room in his house afterward improved as the post office. He was a school-teacher in this and the neighboring towns many years, an excellent teacher and a worthy man. In politics Mr. Osborn was decidedly a Democrat, but he was held in high estimation by both parties. In 1816 a register of deeds for York County was to be chosen. The candidates presented by both parties were numerous. The Federalists of Wells were of the opinion that no one among the many nominees could perform the duties of that office more faithfully or acceptably to the public than Mr. Osborn, but when the back towns were heard from it was found that he had lost the election by a small majority. He was postmaster twelve years, collector of the customs two years, an officer in the Artillery Company, through the different grades from second lieutenant to major, twenty-one years; a trader sixty years, most of the time copartner with his brother John, and during a portion of this term he was engaged in navigation. Mr. Osborn had four children: John, born 1785; married, 1850, Mrs. Paulina Ford, of Limerick; died 1861. Mary, born 1786, died 1868. Samuel L., born 1788; married in June, 1820, Nancy Wood, of Haverhill, N. H.; she lived to be one hundred years of age; he died in 1857. James, born 1793; married, 1821, Lydia, daughter of Seth Burnham, of Kennebunkport, and, 1859, Mrs. Hannah Gillpatrick; he passed away in 1876, leaving two daughters, Pamela and Mary Ann.

PARSONS, JOHN USHER, was for many years a respected and enterprising merchant of Kennebunk; he was born in Parsonsfield and returned there a short time previous to his decease, failing health compelling him to relinquish business. He was a State Senator from York County in 1825. He died October 13, 1825, aged fifty-five years.

PEABODY. This name is said to have had its origin A. D. 61, in the reign of the Roman Emperor Nero. There is to be found a printed and exhaustive genealogy of the family. Francis Peabody, born in England in 1614, came to Ipswich, Mass., in 1635, he afterward made Topsfield, Mass., his permanent place of residence where he died in 1698. His son William, born in 1646, is believed to be the ancestor of all the Peabodys in this country; he made Boxford, Mass., his place of residence; he died in 1699. Seth, the great-grandson of William, was born in Topsfield in 1744. In early man-

hood he went to Alfred, Maine, where he lived several years; he married Abigail, daughter of Thomas Kimball, of Kennebunk, in 1771, purchased the Thomas Kimball farm and made it his home; he served as a private in the Continental Army during the whole of the Revolutionary War; he died in 1827; his widow passed away in 1831, aged eighty years. They had four children: James, born in 1772, married Merriam Mitchell; they had ten children. Isaac, born in 1774, married Sally Shackley in 1810; they had seven children. Sally, born in 1784, married Richard Boothby in 1801; they had several children. Seth, died unmarried.—John A. Peabody, son of Isaac, was born in 1818, he resided in Boston from the time he was eighteen years of age, making Kennebunk his summer home during the last few years of his life, he married Eliza M. Baxter, of Boston, in 1841.—Among the descendants of William we find the names of George Peabody, the eminent banker and philanthropist, Rev. A. P. Peabody, the widely known Unitarian clergyman, and many other men distinguished for their talents and usefulness.

PERKINS, GEORGE, came from Arundel about 1785. He was the son of Thomas Perkins, Jr., who commanded a company at the surrender of Louisburg in 1745, and grandson of Capt. Thomas Perkins, who came to Arundel from Greenland, N. H., in 1720. He was a trader and occupied the Larrabee store on the mill-yard heater. His chief motive in coming here was to purchase ship timber and lumber for parties on the Arundel side of Kennebunk River, who thought that the Mousam traders had the advantage of them, inasmuch as they were able to intercept the teams that came from the interior bringing these staples to market, and thus get the "first pick" and the best bargains. Perkins was an active man. He transacted business here two or three years, his family and home being in Arundel. In the meantime he built the dwelling-house now owned by the heirs of Christopher Littlefield, the eastern end of which was fitted up for a store. Here he lived and did a good business as a trader for about twenty years. He built two vessels at the "Creek," on Mousam River, Maj. Nathaniel Cousens, master workman; he also built quite a large vessel, for those days, farther down the river, in Butland's yard. The last-named was towed around to the Port, rigged, loaded with lumber, and cleared for a West India port in command of Capt. Benjamin Stone (Perkins's son-in-law); she was never heard from with certainty after she sailed from Kennebunk River. The master of a Portland brig reported, a few days



after Captain Stone left our port, that he passed a derelict brig, lumber laden and apparently new, but that it was impossible to get sufficiently near the wreck to ascertain the name; his description of the vessel was such as to leave little or no room for doubt but that it was Captain Perkins's. Captain Perkins was discouraged by this loss, he being sole owner of vessel and cargo, neither of which was insured. He sold his house and stock of goods to Ebenezer Curtis, who traded there until his death. Perkins bought one hundred and five acres of land situated on both sides of the Alfred road and bounded on the south by the Mile Spring Creek and the road leading by Peabody and Shackley to Ross's. He erected a dwelling-house on the lot now occupied by the heirs of the late David Drawbridge. He married Mary Lord, of Arundel, whom he survived. He left three sons, Ezra, George and Clement, also several daughters.

After the death of Captain Perkins his homestead was divided, George taking the main building, which he removed to the west side of the road, and the land lying on that side. Ezra took the land on the east side of the road, fitted up the L for a residence and lived there many years. He sold the dwelling-house and a small lot of land adjoining to David Drawbridge and purchased the dwelling-house in the village known as the Hodsdon house, where he resided until his death, January 23, 1874, aged eighty-one years. He was one of the selectmen of the town for several years. He had one son, Benjamin, and two daughters, Eliza and Mary.

George was a trader and occupied one of the small stores between Storer's "long store" and the mill yard. He married the widow of George Jefferds in February, 1827; he lived awhile in the house afterward owned by Daniel Durrell, and for eighteen months or until he took possession of his farm near Mile Spring, on the Fletcher place. He carried on his farm until advanced years and the infirmities incident to old age induced him to relinquish work and take up his abode with his son Daniel, at whose home he died the second of June, 1882, aged ninety-three years and four months; his wife passed away several years previously. The author obtained from Mr. Perkins from time to time many of the facts relating to early residents, old buildings and other matters of interest embodied in this work.

Clement, in his boyhood, was apprenticed to Benjamin Smith to learn the baker's trade. Having a strong predilection for a seaman's life, he obtained Mr. Smith's consent that he should ship as cook on board a vessel bound to the West Indies and thereafter his



occupation was that of a mariner; after passing through the several grades of seamanship he attained the position of captain. An account of his murder by pirates, in the Caribbean Sea, will be found elsewhere in this volume.

PERKINS, OLIVER, of this town, a mariner by profession, was an active, intelligent young man. He was a private in the Kennebunk Artillery Company, and while in the act of loading one of the fieldpieces at the funeral service of Maj. William Frost, who had died in Sanford and was interred with military honors on the twenty-eighth of December, 1821, was sadly mutilated in consequence of the premature explosion of a cartridge. Mr. Perkins lost both arms and one of his eyes and was otherwise injured; one of his hands and an arm were found about twenty rods from the cannon; both arms were amputated and for a long time his recovery was considered extremely doubtful. He had been married a few years and had two sons and a daughter. He fully recovered his health and lived many years after the accident, and notwithstanding his maimed condition was an active citizen. Samuel Perkins, of New York, and the late Oliver Perkins, of West Kennebunk, were his sons, and Mrs. Marshall Lowell his daughter.

SEWALL, DANIEL, was born in York March 28, 1755; he married Dorcas, daughter of John H. Bartlett, of Kittery, about 1780. He removed to this town in 1815, at which time he held the offices of register of the Probate Court and clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court, the records of both of which he brought with him, and they were kept here, in his dwelling-house, until 1820, when George Thacher, Jr. (son of Judge George Thacher), of Biddeford, received the appointment of Register of Probate from the new State Government, and the records of this court were removed to the fireproof building in Alfred. Mr. Sewall held this position thirty-seven years and that of clerk of the Common Pleas from 1792 to 1797. He had previously been eleven years an assistant to the clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and, it is said, while thus employed received one shilling (about twenty-five cents) per day for his labor, working each day from sunrise to sunset. He was clerk of the Supreme Court from 1797 to 1819, at which date we think that he resigned the office and was succeeded by his son, William B. In 1820 Jeremiah Bradbury, then of York (a native of Saco), was appointed clerk and the records were removed to Alfred, and the clerk was required to be a permanent resident of the town where the fireproof building was located.

Mr. Sewall also held the office of postmaster of York from 1792 to 1807. He was a faithful public officer, a man of the strictest integrity, and an excellent citizen, public-spirited, liberal and always ready to assist in any measure that promised to promote the public good. His records, while register and clerk, were models of neatness and accuracy. He held many municipal and local offices in this town. He was town treasurer from 1831 to 1837, and was frequently chosen a member of important town committees. He was for several years clerk of the Social Library Association; when first elected he found that the records had been neglected and that conflicting claims to the ownership of its shares were not unfrequent; with much labor he traced the transfers that had been made by shareholders from the organization of the association to the then present time, and made a list of original, intermediate and then present owners, the correctness of which was never disputed. As clerk of the proprietors of the old burying-ground (near the Unitarian Church), the records of which he also found in an imperfect state, he made a plan of the ground as originally laid out and ascertained (so far as it was possible to do so) the names of the owners of the several lots within its bounds, and this plan has, to the present time, always been regarded as decisive authority in determining all questions that have arisen respecting the ownership of lots. One can hardly conceive the amount of time and research required for this work, inasmuch as in many of the lots interments had been made where there were no headstones with descriptive inscriptions and no known descendants from whom information could be obtained. Still, in most of these cases, facts were gathered from various sources which enabled him to solve all doubts respecting them; only a small number were left to be marked "unknown." As a parish officer his services were invaluable; he was clerk of the First Congregational Society for many years, and its records for these years show methodical arrangement and evidence of untiring perseverance in collecting and recording facts that had not previously been noticed but which were worthy of preservation.

Mr. Sewall was regarded by distinguished scientific men of his time as remarkably well versed in the science of meteorology, and barometrical and thermometrical records and observations furnished by him may be found in many scientific works published between the years 1800 and 1840. Barometrical tables made by him during the years 1837 and '38 were published entire in Doctor Jackson's annual reports on the Geology of Maine for those years respectively.

He furnished thermometrical tables to the *Kennebunk Gazette*, monthly, for several years, which were considered very valuable. He also attained high rank as a mathematician. As a pastime, rather than with the expectation of fame or profit, he prepared and published an Almanac annually for a few years while a resident of York.

In his religious views Mr. Sewall was a decided Unitarian, and in this particular, we think, was the first of the family, ancestral or contemporary, who embraced this faith. He was a deacon of the church of the First Congregational Society in Kennebunk as well as one of the assessors of the parish for many years, and was always deeply interested in the prosperity of the society. His character was irreproachable; he was a useful and an upright citizen, a professor of religion whose daily life bore witness to his sincerity.

Mr. James K. Remich, in 1828, printed for a Boston house an edition of five thousand copies of the "New England Primer," which was then nearly out of print. Mr. Sewall was in the printing office when the proof reader was examining the proof sheet of the first half part of the book and suggested the expediency of making some changes in the "Assembly's Catechism" by omitting words and sentences that were "behind the times." The publisher was consulted and expressed his entire willingness that the proposed alteration should be made, inasmuch as it was distinctly stated that it was not desired to make any additions to the text. Mr. Sewall furnished the copy for an "expurgated edition." It happened that a number of copies were purchased for the Sunday-school of a society in Wells, the omissions were discovered by the clergyman, and communications were at once sent to the Portland *Mirror* and Boston *Recorder*, warning the public to beware of the publication. This led to a spirited newspaper controversy, conducted by the Wells clergyman, as assailant, through the columns of the papers above named, and by Mr. Sewall, as defendant, through the columns of the *Kennebunk Gazette*. This controversy caused a rapid sale of the first revised edition of the "Primer" and a second edition (five thousand copies) was ordered by the publisher within a month after the first had been brought into notice. With the public generally the affair produced more merriment than bitterness, and several evangelical clergymen expressed the opinion that "the old catechism was none the worse for the pruning."

SEWALL, WILLIAM BARTLETT, the only son of Daniel Sewall, was born in York in 1782, graduated at Harvard in 1803, studied law,



was admitted to the bar in 1806, and was for a few years a partner with Chief Justice Mellen. In 1816 he married Betsey Cross, of Portland, and about two years later removed to Kennebunk, where he occupied the Nathaniel Frost house. The failing health of his wife induced him to return to Portland, where her mother resided, but his wife survived this removal only a few months; she died in 1819. Shortly after her decease Mr. Sewall returned to Kennebunk and, as a filial duty, became a member of his father's family. Here he assisted his father in his official labors and opened an office for the practice of law. He was clerk of the Supreme Court for York County for about a year, 1819-20, his father having resigned that position. In 1823 he again returned to Portland to take charge of the editorial department of the *Portland Advertiser*, which he conducted for several years with signal ability. Relinquishing this position in 1837, he again returned to Kennebunk and opened an office here. He served several years as one of the superintending school committee of the town and was a very efficient member of the board. In 1839 the nomination for representative to Congress, by the Whig County Convention, was believed by a large majority of the members of the party in Kennebunk to be one "unfit to be made," and they declined to support it. Mr. Sewall was selected as their candidate on the day of election. No effort was made to obtain outside aid in the movement; with very little effort he would unquestionably have received very nearly all the votes thrown in opposition to the regular nomination, and they were many throughout the county.

Mr. Sewall inherited his father's fondness for mathematical and meteorological studies. He too published an Almanac, annually, for several years and was the principal in the preparation of the first published Register of Maine, about 1820. His Almanac did not meet with the success it merited, the chief objection to it being that the space usually devoted to weather predictions was occupied with humorous remarks respecting occurrences that might be looked for during the several months in the year; by a larger number of persons than would generally be imagined this was regarded as an inexcusable offense; "it contained nothing that would enable one to make calculations as to the best days for washing, cleaning house, having company or going abroad," and the like.

His scholarship was of a high order. The productions of his pen, in prose and in verse, both of which he wrote easily and gracefully, were always chaste and polished, evincing uncommon intellectual culture as well as thoughtfulness, guided by soundness of mind



and purity of heart. As a conversationist, although remarkably modest and unassuming, few excelled him. Whether the subject was one that brought into exercise his scientific knowledge or his familiarity with the works of the best authors in almost every department of literature, his remarks were always listened to with marked attention; or whether the occasion was one when wit, jest, anecdote and personal recollections of laughable incidents were expected, he was foremost among the contributors to the hilarity of the hour. He was emphatically "a gentleman of the old school," affable, courteous, kind-hearted, an excellent citizen, an exemplary and an honest man.

January 26, 1841, Mr. Sewall married, for his second wife, Maria Moody, daughter of Richard Gillpatrick, with whom he lived very happily until the close of his life. He died March 4, 1869, at the age of eighty-six years, leaving no children.

STORER, JOSEPH, came to Wells from Dover, N. H., when he was thirteen years of age. His father was William Storer, who was a son of Augustine (one of the "Exeter combination") whose sister, Maria, married Rev. John Wheelwright. Joseph's father died in Dover, in 1660; his widow married Samuel Austin, of Wells, the following year, when she removed to Wells, taking her children with her. Joseph was active and intelligent as a boy, energetic and shrewd as a business man, and a valuable citizen in every respect. He obtained from the town and the "proprietors" many grants of land and, as a copartner, grants of mill privileges on Little River. He married Hannah, daughter of Roger Hill, in 1677; he died in 1720, aged eighty-two years, leaving a widow and eight children. He was regarded as the richest man in Wells at the time of his decease, being in possession of real and personal property valued at five thousand dollars. His large landed property in Kennebunk appears to have fallen into the hands of his widow and his son John, born September 5, 1694, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Hill, in 1722. To him and his father-in-law were granted the three hundred acres of land and the water power on the Mousam originally granted to Sayword, and they built a saw-mill and perhaps a grist-mill on the site of Sayword's in 1730. "Storer's garrison in Wells," so often referred to as the refuge of fugitives from Indian atrocities, was built by his father soon after the commencement of the Indian Wars and continued to be maintained as an effective stronghold under the management of his son to their close. John

was distinguished for his bravery, patriotism and open-handed benevolence. He was at the taking of Louisburg, C. B., in 1745. His valuable services to his townsmen and unfortunates driven from their homes in other places can scarcely be overestimated. He left six children, viz.: Hannah, born September 13, 1723; Joseph, born May 17, 1725; John, born April 28, 1727; Elizabeth, born April 14, 1729, married a Mr. Littlefield, of Wells; she passed away May 31, 1823, in the ninety-fifth year of her age and was the last surviving child of Colonel Storer; Bellamy, born May 27, 1731, died early. A daughter and a son Samuel were born later. Joseph, the eldest son, continued his father's business in Kennebunk and in 1757 became a resident of the Second Parish, the first of the name who made it his permanent home. He married Hannah March, of Greenland, N. H., in 1753. He built the small, one-story house that stood just above the larger dwelling-house on Storer Street belonging originally to the Storer estate, where he lived with his family and also kept a country store for a few years, afterward building and residing in the mansion and improving the whole of the small building as a store. Mr. Storer was enterprising and judicious as a business man. When the Revolutionary struggle came on he proved himself "a whole-souled patriot"; he entered the service in 1777 as colonel of a Regiment of Infantry, but shortly afterward was taken sick at Albany, N. Y., and died at the age of fifty-one years. He left two sons, Joseph and Clement, who inherited their father's large landed property, mill, etc. Joseph remained in Kennebunk, but Clement took up his residence in Portsmouth, N. H., from which city he never removed; he was a physician of respectable standing. Joseph and Clement never made a division of the estate, except that, as lot after lot was sold, the money received was equally divided between them. Timber and wood land which to-day would bring from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre they sold for from twenty to twenty-five dollars per acre, and village lots proportionally low; still they were complained of as extortioners and oppressors! Joseph was not a brilliant man, intellectually, and in business pursuits he was not successful. He was a farmer, storekeeper and mill man for many years; he also succeeded Barnard as postmaster, which office he retained until his appointment as collector of the customs, in 1810, which situation he held several years and from which he derived a very handsome income. In 1808 he married Priscilla Cutts, of Portsmouth, N. H. She was a descendant of John Cutts, of Ports-

mouth, who was the first President of New Hampshire, under the royal government established in that colony, in 1680, by commission from King Charles II. He held the office one year only. Mr. Cutts was a merchant; he had acquired a large property and was one of the aristocracy of the time. He became the owner of John Sanders's entire estate, in 1662 or '63, at what is now known as Hart's Beach, which was held by himself and his heirs for many years. Madam Storer was pretty, intelligent and very ladylike in her manners; she had been brought up in the style and with the notions of the "first families" and was disposed to maintain in her new home the position that she had enjoyed among her kindred. Her husband heartily seconded all her aspirations in this direction, and it thus came about that in process of time he lost the distinction, several years held and unwillingly relinquished, of being the "highest taxpayer in town." Mr. Storer was unpopular, but we think not deservedly so; he was patriotic, good-hearted and liberal, and Madam Storer was an excellent woman, possessing those noble qualities of kindness, benevolence and purity of character which far outweighed unimportant peculiarities attained in childhood, but never obtrusively exhibited. Mr. Storer died in 1833, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. His widow removed to Virginia, where some relatives resided; she died in 1860, in the eighty-seventh year of her age. The homestead subsequently became the property and summer residence of Mr. Charles Parsons, of New York.

TAYLOR, WILLIAM, came to Wells (Harriseeket), as near as can be ascertained, as early as 1665; he was doubtless the first with this surname in Wells and was the ancestor of all the Taylors in Wells and Lyman. He was the father of Joseph, who married about 1690 and to whom the families of that name in this vicinity trace their lineage. He was probably the great-grandfather of William, so often mentioned in this volume, who was the son of Col. John Taylor. Colonel Taylor was one of the most respectable inhabitants among the early settlers of the town; he died July 3, 1822, aged eighty-five years.

THACHER, STEPHEN, of whose industry, enterprise and official positions we have spoken at considerable length in preceding pages, came to this town in 1803 and engaged in trade. He was born in Lebanon, Conn.; he was a graduate of Yale College of the class of 1795, which numbered thirty-three members and in which he sustained a high rank. For several years subsequently to his leaving



collegè Mr. Thacher pursued the occupation of a teacher, first at Springfield, Mass., where he studied divinity with Rev. Dr. Howard, and afterward taught school and preached at Suffield, Conn., and at Beverly and Barnstable, Mass. His health failing, he was compelled to relinquish teaching and also his ministerial labors. He then took up his residence in Kennebunk. In 1804 he was married to Harriet, a daughter of Esaias Preble, of York, and a sister of the late Judge Preble, of Portland. They had two sons, George, and Peter, counselor at law in company with his son, under the firm name of Peter and Stephen Thacher, in Boston. After his marriage a maiden aunt, Abigail Thacher, became an inmate of his family, where she continued to reside until her death, in 1813, at the age of ninety years. Her remains were interred in the cemetery near the Unitarian Church. Judge Thacher was an active and ardent politician of the Jeffersonian school. In 1818 he was appointed by President Monroe collector of Passamaquoddy, when he removed to Lubec; he held the office of collector for twelve years, until 1830. Mrs. Thacher died in Lubec in 1849. In 1856 he went to Rockland to make his home with a son, where he passed away, at an advanced age, in 1859.

THOMAS, JOSEPH, came to Kennebunk in 1792 and was always a highly respected citizen. He was one of the representatives from Wells (while Kennebunk was part of that town) for several years; he held the office of chief justice of the Court of Sessions for York County for many years and was one of the selectmen of Wells for a number of years prior to 1820. He was regarded as a very able counselor at law and at the time of his decease was president of the York County Bar. He died on the twentieth day of January, 1830, aged sixty-seven years.

TITCOMB. The Titcomb families in Kennebunk trace their ancestry to William Titcomb, who came to this country from England about 1636 and was among the earliest settlers of Newbury, Mass. He was twice married and left fifteen children. He was a prominent man in the settlement. His son William was born in 1659 and died in 1740. Joseph, son of William, Jr., was born in 1698 and died in 1779. Benjamin, the son of Joseph, was born in 1726 and died in 1779. He was at the battle of Louisburg and on his return settled in Portland; he was a blacksmith and was industrious and prosperous. His son Benjamin was born in 1761 and died in 1848; he was a printer, and on the "first day of January, 1785, he struck off



with his own hands, in the town of Portland, the first sheet ever printed in Maine, the *Falmouth Gazette and Weekly Advertiser*." He afterward became a clergyman and was settled in Brunswick, Me. Stephen Titcomb, son of Joseph above named, was born in Newburyport, Mass., and was quite young when his father died; his mother, a few years later, married Henry Sewall, "the first immigrant of the name," of York. Stephen was an inmate of his family until about the time that he made Kennebunk his home, which, it is believed, was as early as 1746, when he purchased land on and near Kennebunk River. (Facts respecting his dwelling-house, etc., will be found elsewhere in this volume.) We think that he was better provided with pecuniary means than the majority of our pioneers; he was a loaner of money and we have seen evidence that, as mortgagee, his conduct was often liberal and honorable. He married Abigail Stone, of North Yarmouth, in 1748. They had seven children: Joseph, Benjamin, Stephen, Sarah, Abigail, Sarah and John. Of these only one became a permanent resident of Kennebunk. Mr. Titcomb was one of the selectmen of Wells in 1777 and '78. He died in 1815, aged ninety-three years. He was an exemplary and valuable citizen.

Joseph, the eldest son of Stephen, purchased land in Alewife (now the homestead acres of Benjamin Titcomb) about 1775, but died before he had made much progress in the work of bringing any considerable portion of his land under cultivation; we do not know whether or not he had commenced the erection of a dwelling-house. Benjamin, the second son, then came into possession of the tract of land purchased by Joseph, and erected (or completed) a dwelling-house, and converted a goodly portion of its upland and lowland into "grass, tillage and pasture." He was thrice married and had six children by his first wife (Mary Burnham) and two by his second wife (Hannah Bragdon). He was one of the selectmen of Wells twenty-four years, from 1787 to 1811. Mr. Titcomb was a worthy and respected citizen. At his decease he was succeeded on the farm by his eldest son, Benjamin, who married Molly Waterhouse, October 27, 1808. Three children were born to them: Benjamin Franklin, Sarah and Abigail. Mr. Titcomb was chairman of the first board of selectmen in Kennebunk and for many years was deacon of the Unitarian Church. Under his careful management the farm was much improved. Benjamin Franklin succeeded to the ownership of the property, to which he added many acres, and near the old homestead lot he erected a new and handsome dwelling-

house and other buildings. Mr. Titcomb was one of the selectmen of this town from 1871 to '74 inclusive. He well maintained the respectable standing of his ancestry. His son, Benjamin F., is now in possession of the estate.

James, the second son of Benjamin, Sr., was an inmate of the family of his grandfather, Stephen Titcomb, during the larger part of his minority and inherited a good property. He commenced his business life as a trader in the village, but later removed to the Landing, where he engaged in shipbuilding, became a shipowner and was quite successful. He was one of the selectmen from 1828 to '30 inclusive. He married Abigail Durrell, of Kennebunkport. Their children were Joseph, George P., William and Lucy. Mr. Titcomb was an enterprising citizen and a man of strict integrity. Joseph, like his father, was for a number of years a shipbuilder and a shipowner in company with Col. William L. Thompson; their building yard was at the Lower Village. Mr. Titcomb was one of the selectmen in 1851 and '52 and again served from 1883 to '85 inclusive; he was a member of the House of Representatives in 1853 and of the Senate in 1850 to '52; he also held the office of bank commissioner for a time. He married Mary Ann, daughter of William W. Wise; they had two children, Agnes and William. George P., the son of James, was also a shipbuilder and noted for his mechanical skill and business capacity. He was one of the selectmen two years and represented the town in the lower branch of the Maine Legislature in 1856. William died in early manhood. Lucy married James M. Stone; they have three children, two sons and a daughter.

Joseph, youngest son of Benjamin Titcomb, Sr., spent several years of his minority as a clerk in the store of Richard Gillpatrick. He afterward engaged in business in Boston, and later in New York. He died in Kennebunkport.

WALLINGFORD, GEORGE W., came to this town about 1800 and opened an office for the practice of law. He was a son of Captain Wallingford, of Somersworth, N. H., who commanded a company in a New Hampshire Regiment in the War of the Revolution; he was killed on the field of battle during an engagement with the British. The widow of Captain Wallingford and the mother of George W. married Col. Amos Cogswell, of Dover, who was in the Revolutionary Army from its commencement to its close. George W. died January 19, 1824, in the forty-ninth year of his age. An obituary

notice of Mr. Wallingford concludes thus: "The State has lost a firm patriot, whose talents were equaled only by his undeviating integrity and unshaken firmness; the county has lost the first ornament of its forum, its ablest advocate and most profound counselor, and the town one of its best citizens."

WELLS. Thomas Wells came from England in 1635 and settled in Ipswich, Mass., where he lived until 1657, when he removed to the town of Wells and bought of William Symands his dwelling-house and farm. Nathaniel, the great-grandson of Thomas, was a prominent and valuable citizen of Wells; he held the commission of justice of the peace for the county of York for many years and was an efficient and upright magistrate; he was elected clerk of the town in 1740, and thereafter until his death, in 1776, at the age of seventy-one years, was annually re-elected to the office.

Nathaniel Wells, usually spoken of as Judge Wells, son of the above named, was born in 1740. He graduated at Cambridge University in 1759, and for the six years following his graduation found employment as an instructor of youth. At the end of this period he returned to Wells, at the request of his father, and thenceforward, during his lifetime, was an active, useful and honored citizen of the town. He was one of the board of selectmen eleven years, from 1770 to 1781 inclusive, when he declined a re-election; he held the office of town clerk forty years, from 1776 to 1816; in 1779 he was chosen a delegate to the convention, held at Cambridge, for framing a State Constitution; he represented the town in the lower branch of the State Legislature from 1781 to '84 inclusive, and was one of the senators of York County from 1785 to 1801; in 1789 he was chosen a delegate, by the town of Wells, to the important convention held in Boston "for the purpose of considering the Constitution of the United States." From 1774 until his decease, in 1816, he held a commission as justice of the peace; in 1781 he was commissioned by Governor Hancock as a special justice of the Inferior Court; in 1786 he was appointed a justice of the Court of Common Pleas and in 1799 was made chief justice of that court, which position he held until 1811; for seventeen years—from 1784 to 1801—he was one of the committee for the sale of eastern lands belonging to the State.

We derive the foregoing facts and figures from a full and very carefully written obituary notice of Judge Wells, which was published in the *Visiter* of the twenty-first and twenty-eighth of Decem-



ber, 1816, and from a genealogical record of the Wells family published a few years ago in pamphlet form.

All the duties and labors required of Judge Wells by the numerous and highly honorable as well as responsible official positions conferred upon him by his townsmen, the people of York County and executives of Massachusetts were invariably performed with promptness, fidelity and unquestioned ability. As a member of the important conventions for framing a Constitution for the State of Massachusetts and for the examination and consideration of the Constitution of the United States, his opinions and suggestions were listened to with marked attention by his colleagues; his judicial decisions were regarded as sound; as a legislator he recognized his obligation to seek for the "greatest good of the greatest number," and in municipal affairs his counsel was always judicious and seldom or never unheeded.

The town of Wells was never deficient in men of sterling patriotism, of intelligence and of true nobleness of character, but for its high political standing at the State Capital and elsewhere during the Revolution, and the troublous times preceding and succeeding that period, it was indebted to the brain work so remarkably and so opportunely performed by Doctor Hemmenway and Judge Wells; in letters to committees of correspondence and in reports to their townsmen on vitally important questions which demanded the attention of the people and concerning which it was desirable that they should, in their corporate capacity, express their views, we find proofs of sound learning, deep reflection and devotion to the country's best interests. Hemmenway and Wells did not live in vain; they wrought faithfully and wisely in the field whereon it was appointed that they should labor. For their words and deeds, so widespread and beneficent in their influence, their names should be held in grateful remembrance.

WHITNEY, DANIEL, came to this village from the western part of Wells about 1805. We infer that he was a native of Biddeford and served his apprenticeship as a boot and shoemaker there. He married Susanna Carleton, of Wells, September 16, 1805; they had six children: Leonard, jeweler, moved to Philadelphia, where he passed away. Harriet, married W. Chase, of Bradford, Mass. Horace, tinsmith, was the principal of the "Dover Manufacturing Company," an extensive establishment for the manufacture of tin and wire household implements; he also kept a hardware store in

that city for several years; he afterward removed to Cambridge, Mass., where he passed away about 1886; he accumulated a large property. Ambrose resided in Boston. Susan married a Mr. Fox, of Portland, and Ralph also made his home in the same city.

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